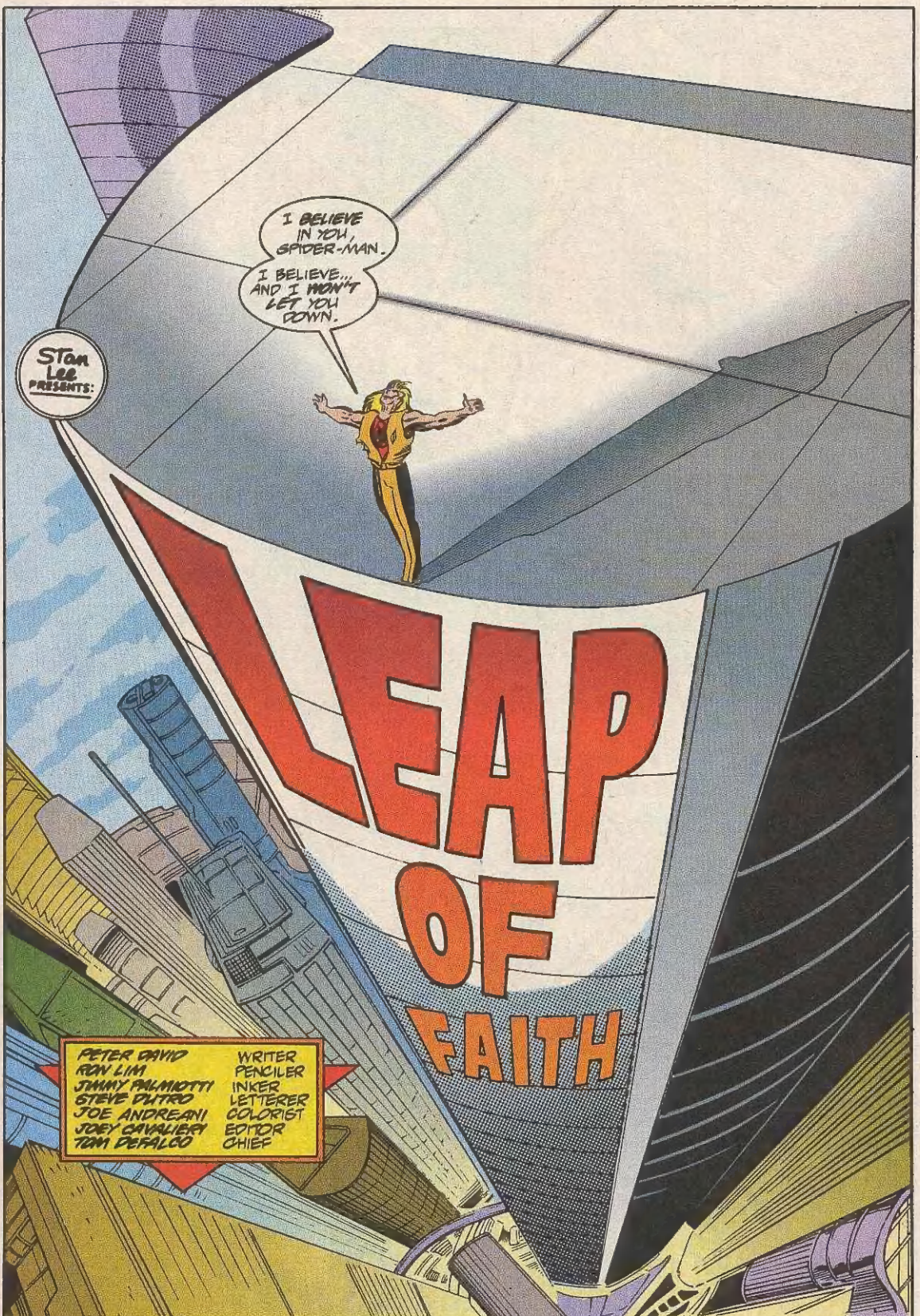
MARVEL COMICS
ANNUAL
64 PAGES
$2.95 US
$4.00 CAN
1
1994
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
SPIDER-MAN
2099
DIRECT EDITION



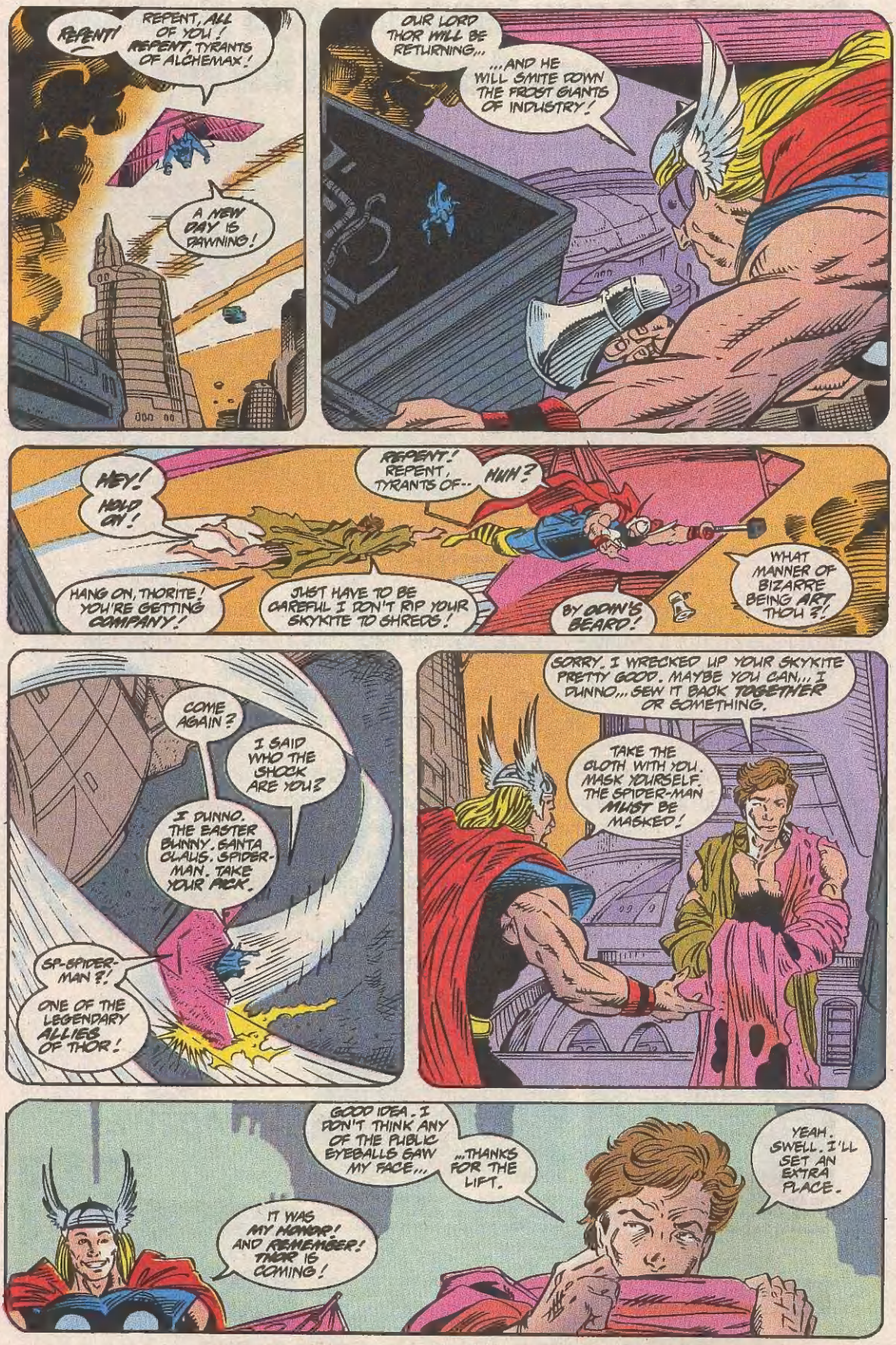
SPIDER-MAN 2099™ ANNUAL Vol. 1, No. 1, 1994. Published by MARVEL COMICS, Terry Stewart, President. Stan Lee, Publisher. Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, NY 10016. Published annually. Copyright © 1994 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $2.95 per copy in the U.S. and $4.00 in Canada. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. SPIDER-MAN 2099 (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. PRINTED IN USA.

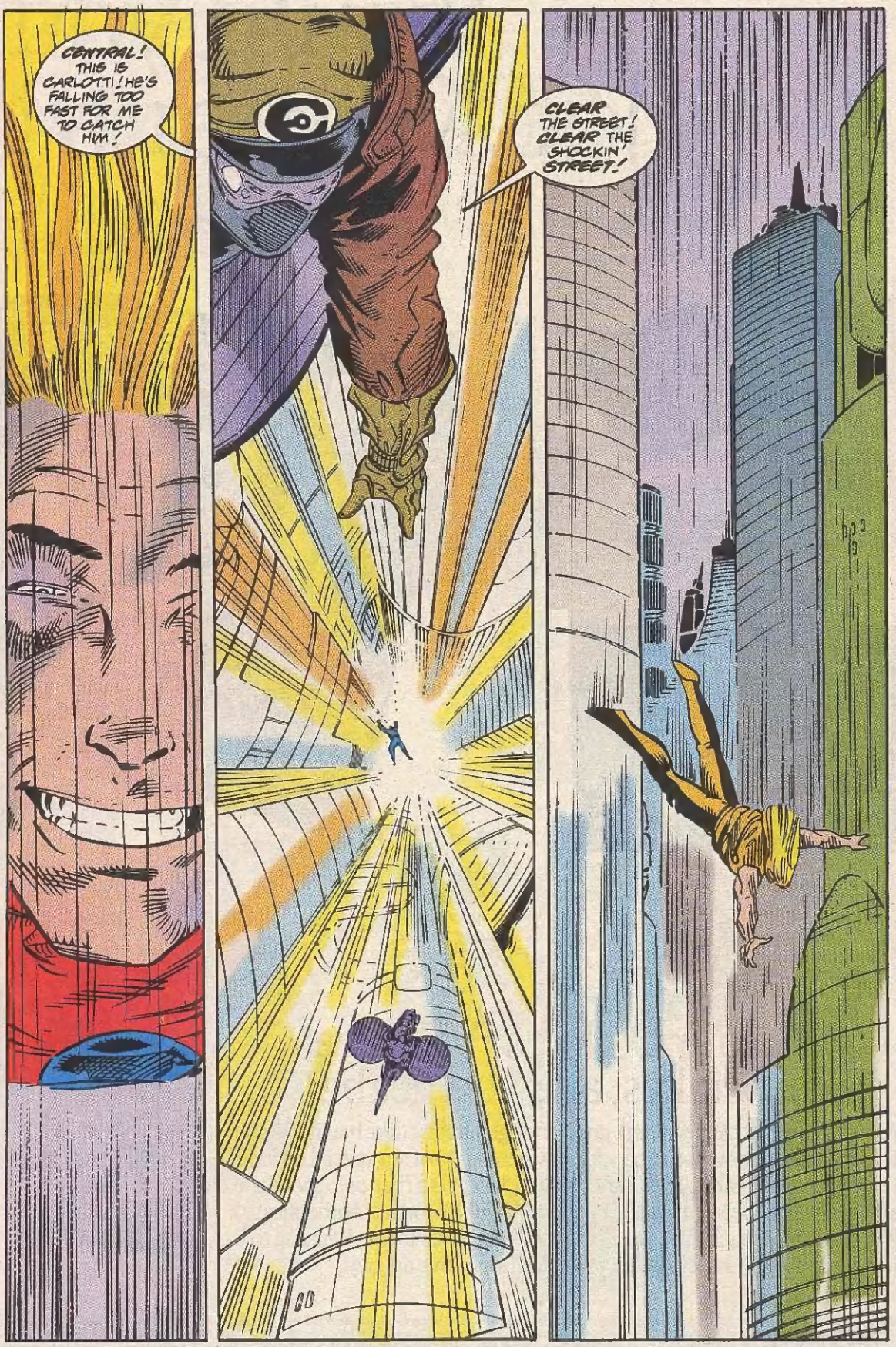
Scanned By GOTHMAN
For The HaCsA 2002

YOU! ON THE ROOF!
BACK AWAY, RIGHT NOW, BEFORE YOU HURT YOURSELF!
THIS IS A DIRECT ORDER FROM AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PUBLIC EYE!
DON'T DO IT!
"HERE'S YOUR DINNER, KENNY."

HERE'S YOUR DINNER, KENNY.
WITH ALL THE CREDITS WE HAVE LEFT IN THE ACCOUNT, THIS IS THE BEST I CAN MANAGE.
IT'S OKAY, LOREEN. BECAUSE THINGS ARE GOING TO GET BETTER.
OH. IS THIS WHERE YOU TELL ME THAT THOR IS COMING?
'CAUSE IF YOU'RE GONNA, KENNY, I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT AGAIN.
YOU SIT AROUND ALL THE TIME, EVER SINCE ALCHEMAX FIRED YOU. WE'RE STUCK IN THIS CRUMMY APARTMENT DOWNTOWN.
THINGS AREN'T GONNA GET ANY BETTER FOR US! YOU LET ALCHEMAX PUSH YOU AROUND!

YEAH? WELL... WELL, I'LL SHOW YOU THAT I WON'T LET ANYONE PUSH ME AROUND!
NOT THEM, AND NOT YOU!
WHAT'S THAT THING? WHAT'RE YOU DOING, KENNY?
SHOWING YOU THE KIND OF MAN YOU'RE MARRIED TO!
I KNOW ALREADY! A LUNATIC!
SLAM
OHHH NO...
...HE'S GONNA GET HIMSELF IN TROUBLE AGAIN.

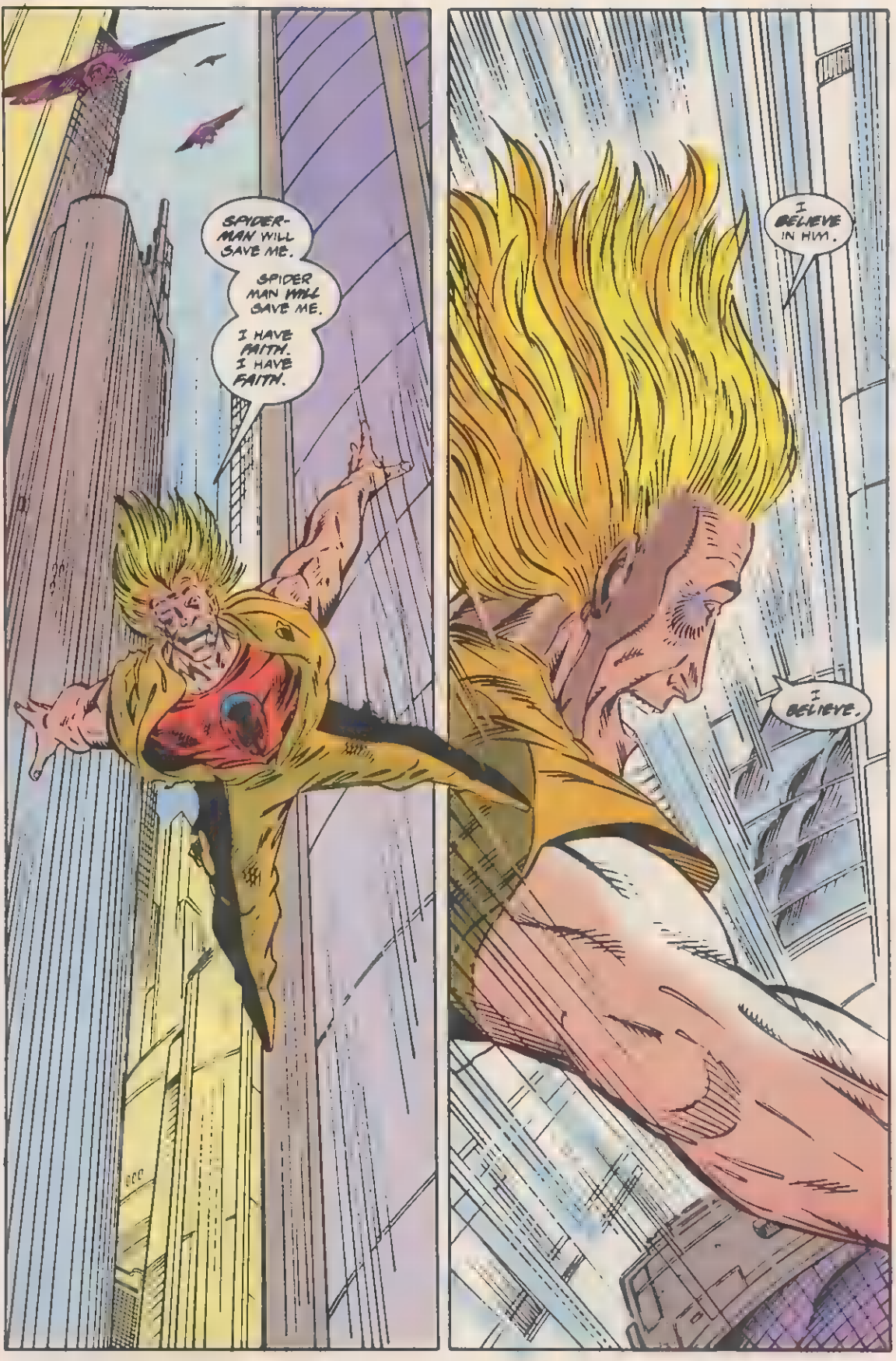

REPENT!
REPENT, ALL OF YOU! REPENT, TYRANTS OF ALCHEMAX!
A NEW DAY IS DAWNING!
OUR LORD THOR WILL BE RETURNING...
...AND HE WILL SMITE DOWN THE FROST GIANTS OF INDUSTRY!
HEY! HOLD ON!
REPENT! REPENT, TYRANTS OF--
HUH?
HANG ON, THORITE! YOU'RE GETTING COMPANY!
JUST HAVE TO BE CAREFUL I DON'T RIP YOUR SKYKITE TO SHREDS!
BY ODIN'S BEARD!
WHAT MANNER OF BIZARRE BEING ART THOU?!
COME AGAIN?
I SAID WHO THE SHOCK ARE YOU?
I DUNNO. THE EASTER BUNNY. SANTA CLAUS. SPIDER-MAN. TAKE YOUR PICK.
SP-SPIDER-MAN?!
ONE OF THE LEGENDARY ALLIES OF THOR!
SORRY. I WRECKED UP YOUR SKYKITE PRETTY GOOD. MAYBE YOU CAN... I DUNNO... SEW IT BACK TOGETHER OR SOMETHING.
TAKE THE CLOTH WITH YOU. MASK YOURSELF. THE SPIDER-MAN MUST BE MASKED!
GOOD IDEA. I DON'T THINK ANY OF THE PUBLIC EYEBALLS SAW MY FACE...
...THANKS FOR THE LIFT.
YEAH. SWELL. I'LL SET AN EXTRA PLACE.
IT WAS MY HONOR! AND REMEMBER! THOR IS COMING!

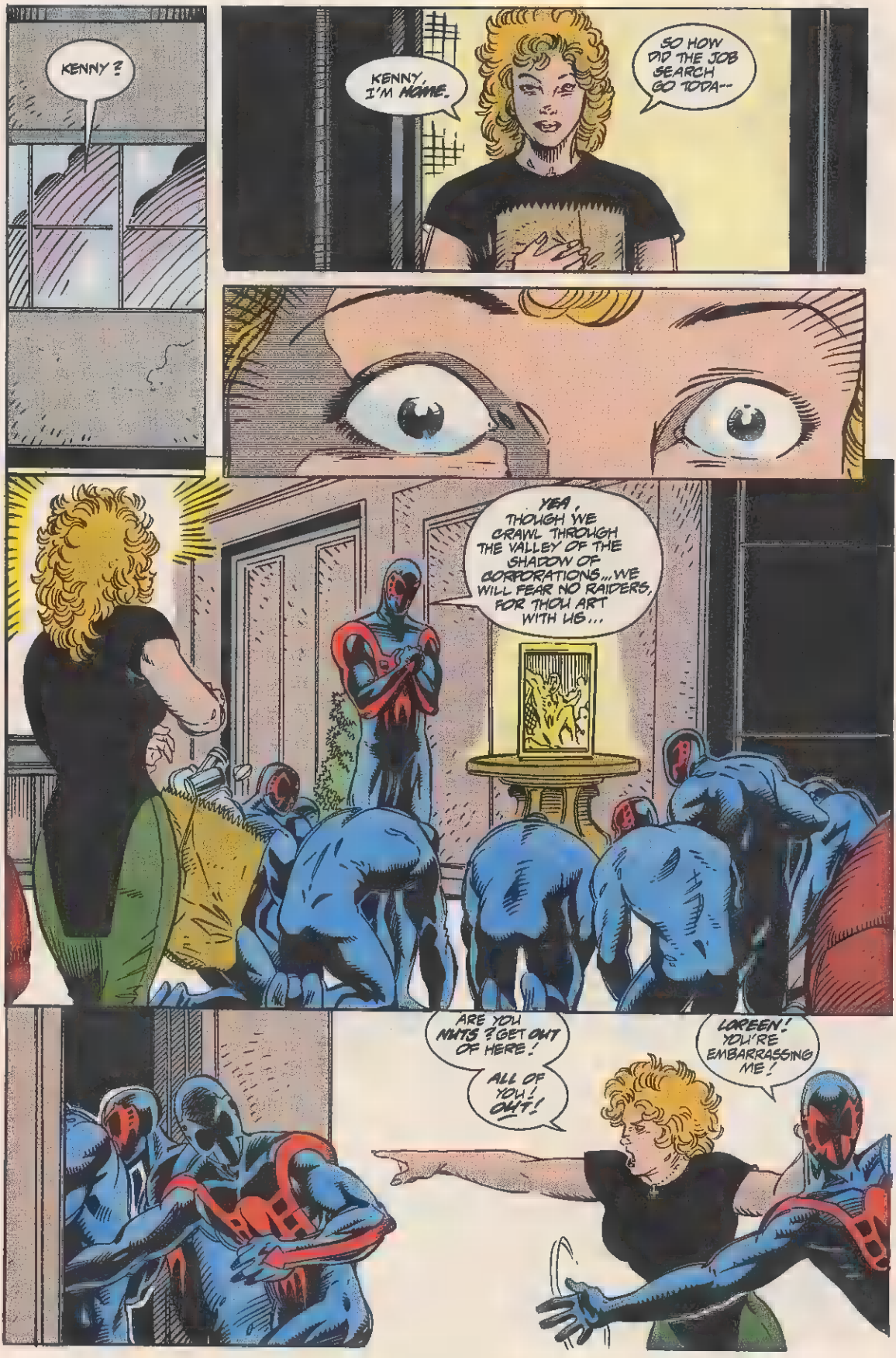

CENTRAL! THIS IS CARLOTTI! HE'S FALLING TOO FAST FOR ME TO CATCH HIM!
CLEAR THE STREET! CLEAR THE SHOCKIN' STREET!

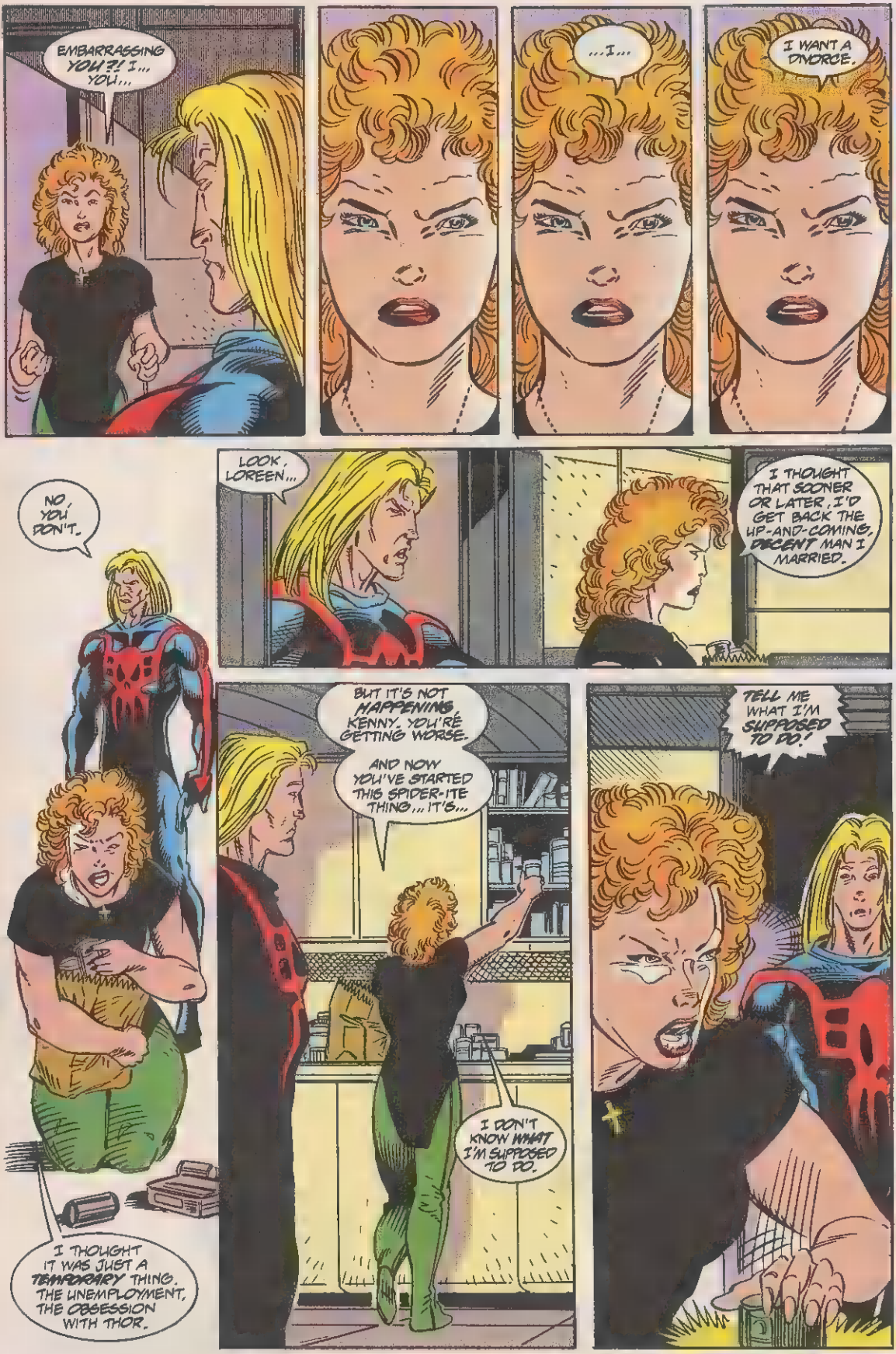
OH, COME ON, KENNY.
YOU'VE ACTUALLY SEEN SPIDER-MAN? THE HARBINGER OF THOR?
ALCHEMAX BITES
WHY DO YOU FIND IT SO HARD TO BELIEVE, BALDUR?
WE'VE BEEN PREDICTING THOR'S RETURN. HERE'S ACTUAL PROOF... AND YOU REFUSE TO BELIEVE?
AND IF I'M TELLING YOU SPIDER-MAN IS COME, YOU KNOW WHAT'S NOT FAR BEHIND?
A STAY IN THE WELLVALE HOME FOR THE PERPETUALLY BEWILDERED!
OH, YOU'RE A RIOT, BALDUR! ALL OF YOU, WITH YOUR SNICKERINGS!
I REFUSE TO BE THE ONLY SIGHTED MAN IN THE KINGDOM OF THE BLIND!
KENNY, THE PROBLEM IS... NOTHING PERSONAL... LET'S SAY FOR ARGUMENT'S SAKE, SPIDER-MAN HAS RETURNED.
WHY COME TO YOU FIRST? WHAT MAKES YOU SO "SPECIAL?"

MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING IN ME THE REST OF YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO SEE, BALDUR.
MAYBE IT'S NOT MY PROBLEM. MAYBE IT'S YOURS.
"WHAT MAKES YOU SO SPECIAL?" THE SMUG ARROGANCE--!
KENNY? WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS IS. BURN THIS STUPID THOR OUTFIT, OR SHRED IT.
IF THAT'S HOW THEY'RE GOING TO BE, THEN I DON'T WANT TO BE ONE OF THEM.
KENNY, YOU CAN'T BELIEVE HOW HAPPY I AM TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT!
HECK. MAYBE I NEVER WAS.
YES, THE VIOLENCE CHANNEL. ALL VIOLENCE. ALL THE TIME.
COMING SOON FROM VIDEOX, A DIVISION OF ALCHEMAX.

WE INTERRUPT PROGRAMMING TO BRING YOU THIS ON-THE-SPOT COVERAGE...
MM?
...SO THAT YOU AT HOME CAN WATCH A TRAINED ALCHEMAX OPERATIVE DEALING WITH THE SORT OF RABBLE FROM WHICH THE PUBLIC BYE ROUTINELY PROTECTS YOU, THE LAW ABIDING CITIZENRY.
SHOCK! THAT'S THE GUYS! THERE'S BALDUR!
PERFORMING HIS DUTIES WITH SKILL AND EFFICIENCY, NOTICE HOW HE DISPATCHES A PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE RELIGIOUS FANATIC.
BAAALDURR!
BALDUR ISN'T MOVING! I...I THINK HE'S DEAD!
LOOK! SPIDER-MAN IS THERE! JUST LIKE I SAID!
BALDUR DIDN'T BELIEVE, AND HE PAID THE PRICE! BUT I BELIEVE! I ALWAYS WILL!
GET HIM, SPIDER-MAN! STRIKE ON BALDUR'S BEHALF! SHOW THEM A NEW DAY IS DAWNING!


SPIDER-MAN WILL SAVE ME.
SPIDER MAN WILL SAVE ME.
I HAVE FAITH. I HAVE FAITH.
I BELIEVE IN HIM.
I BELIEVE.


KENNY?
KENNY, I'M HOME.
SO HOW DID THE JOB SEARCH GO TODA--
YEA, THOUGH WE CRAWL THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF CORPORATIONS... WE WILL FEAR NO RAIDERS, FOR THOU ART WITH US...
ARE YOU NUTS? GET OUT OF HERE!
ALL OF YOU! OUT!
LOREEN! YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME!


EMBARRASSING YOU?! I... YOU...
...I...
I WANT A DIVORCE.
LOOK, LOREEN...
I THOUGHT THAT SOONER OR LATER, I'D GET BACK THE UP-AND-COMING, DECENT MAN I MARRIED.
NO, YOU DON'T.
BUT IT'S NOT HAPPENING, KENNY. YOU'RE GETTING WORSE.
AND NOW YOU'VE STARTED THIS SPIDER-ITE THING... IT'S...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO.
TELL ME WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO!
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A TEMPORARY THING. THE UNEMPLOYMENT, THE OBSESSION WITH THOR.

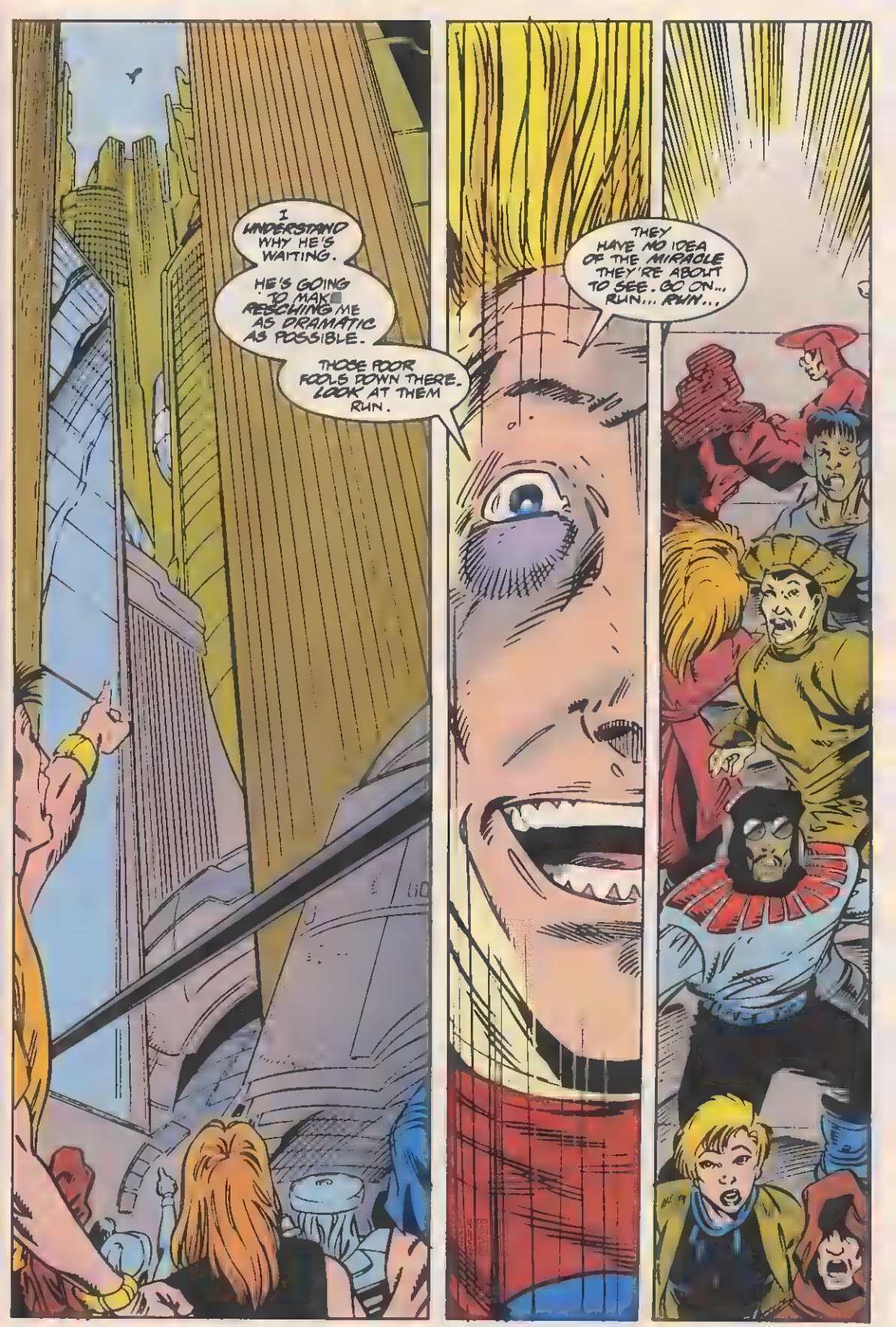
LOVE ME. [illegible] ME. THAT'S ALL I'M ASKING.
KENNY, I SEE YOU SLIPPING FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY, AND THERE'S [illegible] I CAN DO.
AND YOU'RE ASKING ME TO STAND BY AND [illegible] IT HAPPEN?
HOW CAN I DO THAT? HOW?
IT'S THE FENRIS! THEY'RE BUSTING THINGS UP!
THEY WANT VENGEANCE FOR SPIDER-MAN EMBARRASSING THEM LAST MONTH!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!
KENNY, NO! THE FENRIS... THEY'RE [illegible] YOU'LL BE--
KILLED? NO. SPIDER-MAN IS WITH ME.
LOREEN... I HAVE TO DO THIS.
WE'LL TALK WHEN I GET BACK.

IN THE NAME OF THE BLESSED SPIDER-MAN WE STRIKE!
HRKH!
THERE'S MORE DOWN HERE!
I'VE GOT 'EM!
WHO'S GOT WHO, SONNY?
"YOU... YOU DON'T SCARE ME! BECAUSE I AM A TRUE BELIEVER IN SPIDER-MAN!
"AND AS SOON AS HE'S DONE THRASHING YOUR COMPATRIOTS... HE WILL FLY TO MY AID!"

"IS THAT WHAT YOU BELIEVE, LITTLE SPIDER-ITE? WELL, HERE'S SOME [illegible] FOR YOU...
"SPIDER-MAN IS BUSY WITH OTHER THINGS RIGHT NOW. BUSY JUMPING AND FIGHTING AND WEBBING AND SHOWING OFF HOW WONDERFUL HE IS.
"HE AIN'T GOT TIME TO BE WORRIED ABOUT ONE LITTLE CRETIN OF A HERO-WORSHIPPER.

" IN OTHER WORDS, YA LITTLE CREEPAZOID... "
OOOOF!
YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!
" SPIDER-MAN... HELP M-UHHH! "

STILL GOT SOME FIGHT IN YA, HUH?
"DON'T WORRY. WHEN WE GET THROUGH WITH YOU..."
ARHHHH!
YOU WON'T HAVE ANYTHING LEFT IN YA AT ALL!
HE'S COMING! HE'S COMING THIS WAY! AND HE'S CUTTING US TO PIECES!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!
YOU GET TO KEEP SOME TEETH, CREEP. LUCKY YOU.
Sp-Spider-Man ...he...
...he did it ...he saved me...


I UNDERSTAND WHY HE'S WAITING.
HE'S GOING TO MAK RESCHING ME AS DRAMATIC AS POSSIBLE.
THOSE POOR FOOLS DOWN THERE. LOOK AT THEM RUN.
THEY HAVE NO IDEA OF THE MIRACLE THEY'RE ABOUT TO SEE. GO ON... RUN... RWN...

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Hi, Heroes!

You've heard of interactive books, interactive video games, and interactive CD's, right? Well, now dig this! Mighty Marvel, your ever-lovin' House of Ideas, has a brand new Interactive contest for you! It's for all Spider-Man fans — and, since just about everybody's a Spidey fan, that means it's for everybody, and since you're undoubtedly a body, that means you!

Since you're familiar with the maniacal minds of our Marvel madmen, you know we'd never have an *ordinary* contest for you titanic true believers. This one is different and wackier than any you've ever entered! I can't give you all the details 'cause we're still working on them, but I can tell you enough to whet your greedy little appetite. There are only two simple requirements to our great new spectacular Spider-Man Contest ...

1) You've gotta be able to write, so that we can read your entry! But since the hallowed hordes of Marvel are the best-educated readers of all, with the highest IQ's, that's no problem!

2) The second vitally important, virtually indispensable requirement is that you regularly follow the Spider-Man syndicated strip in your local newspaper. You see, since this will be the first interactive contest in the first interactive-age strip of all time, you personally will participate in determining what poor, perplexed Peter Parker will do with his life at a certain point in the story!

That's all I'm allowed to divulge right now. The contest doesn't officially begin till Oct. 19th. If your town doesn't yet have Spidey's daily adventures, you still have time to write to the "Comic Strip Editor" of your paper and tell him, or her, to get with it and run Spidey's amazing adventures in time to give you a chance to win some of our really far-out prizes!

Speaking of prizes, just like we'd never run an *ordinary* contest, you can bet our prizes too will be wild and weird! So stay tuned, heroes. I'll clue you in to more details in one of my next capricious columns!

Till then, be sure to catch your friendly neighborhood wall-crawler in his world-wide newspaper exploits as soon as possible. When the first of our three fateful coupons appears, we want you to be prepared to dash off a prize-winning response!

Excelsior!

Stan

Stan Lee

NEWSLINE

ITEM! If you haven't sunk your teeth into MORBIUS lately, you might want to take another bite!

A new creative team of **Lisa Trusiani** and **Craig Gilmore** comes aboard with issue #25, on sale this month, and they've got a whole new approach to vampire tales! In this issue, we meet a new love interest for Morbius — a beautiful and captivating woman named Lena who is repulsed by Morbius's murderous ways. Lena inspires Morbius to make a fateful decision: he will no longer drink human blood, even though it may mean his own death!

Editor **Bobbie Chase** described the new approach to Morbius as "a cross between Bright Lights, Big City, After Hours, and the Vampire Lestat!" Lisa said her goal is to make Morbius "a more truly heroic character."

ITEM! This month, we salute Generation Y — the next wave of Marveloids!

The first Marvel baby of the year was delivered on New Year's Day to CONAN editor **Richard Ashford** and his wife, [redacted]. The young barbarian is named [redacted] **William**, and Richard notes that "with a name like that, he's bound to write comics for a living!" During the birth of Grant, Richard passed out twice — which shows that real life can be even more intense than a super-villain slugfest! Richard promises the baby's first words will be "Make Mine Marvel!"

[redacted] **R. Brown** has his own blueprint for having a baby! Eliot's wife, **Arlene Puentes**, gave birth to a little son of a gun called **Nicholas** [redacted] **Puentes** [redacted] on April 25. Eliot, currently hard at work on a parody comic called NOT THE PUNISHER ARMORY, noted that instead of a pacifier, young Nicholas prefers to bite on a bullet!

Next up is the busiest writer in comics, **Fabian Nicieza**, who, along with his wife **Tracey Lee**, became the proud parents of a little Night Thrasher of their own, little **Madison Lee**, on April 27. Fabe, who claims he didn't know he was naming his daughter after a mermaid, promised that Madison "will be a member of the New Warriors in a few months!" He also added, "No way will I ever let Speedball date her!"

Congratulations to all the newborns and their proud parents!

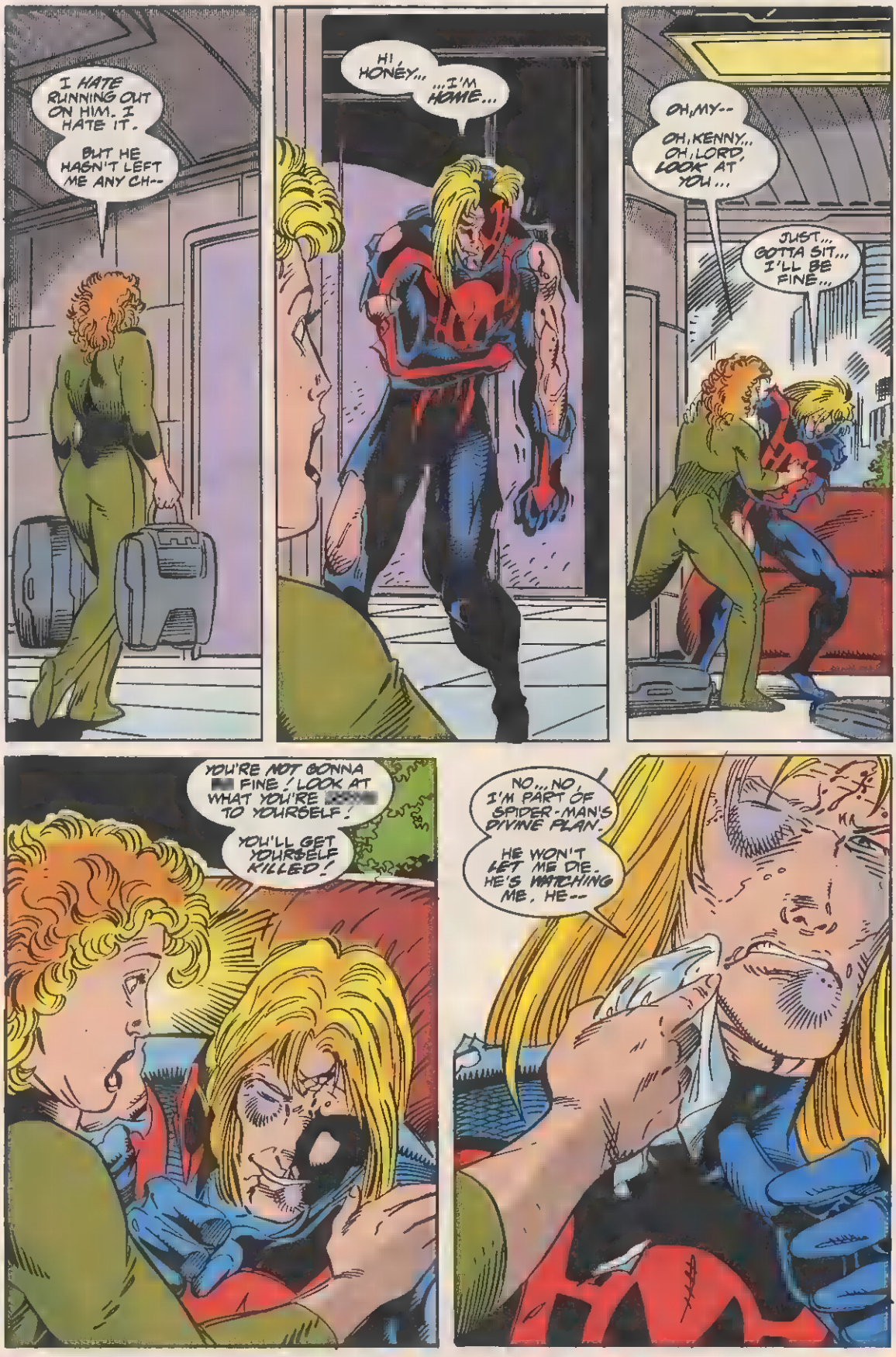
HYPE BOX

"While I live, terror does!" Thus speaks the gun-toting **Solo**, who stars in his first limited series beginning this week, compliments of **Eric Fein** and [redacted] **Randall**. According to writer Eric, "Solo goes against A.R.E.S. — a terrorist organization of people he used to know! The main villain is called Deathstorm!" Spider-Man appears, too — Eric noted that "we will finally see Spider-Man take down a violent vigilante!" Eric promises that SOLO will have "tons of action!" in the splendid Spider-Man tradition, we'll bet!

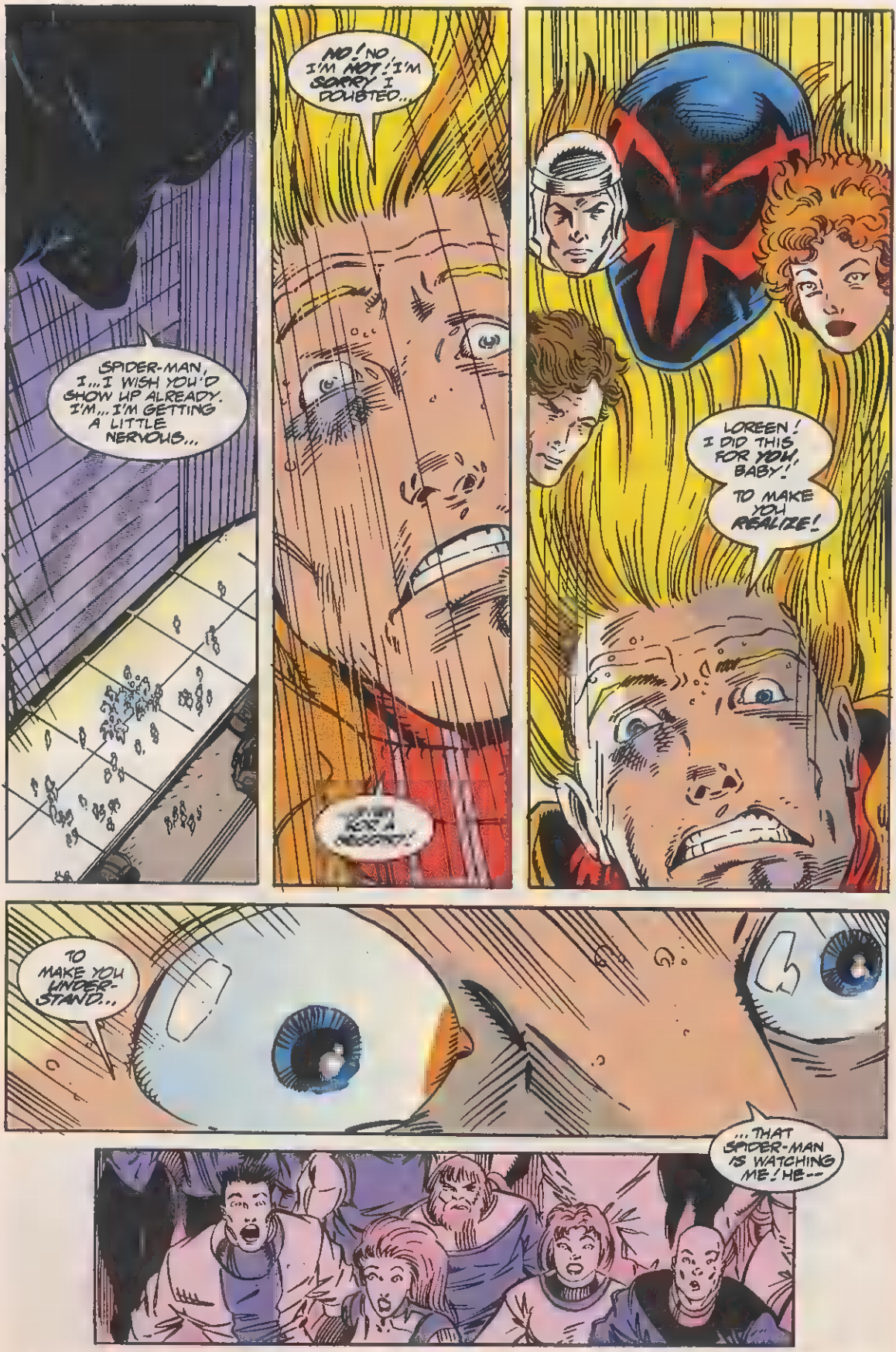
ANSWERS
To Last Week's Puzzle

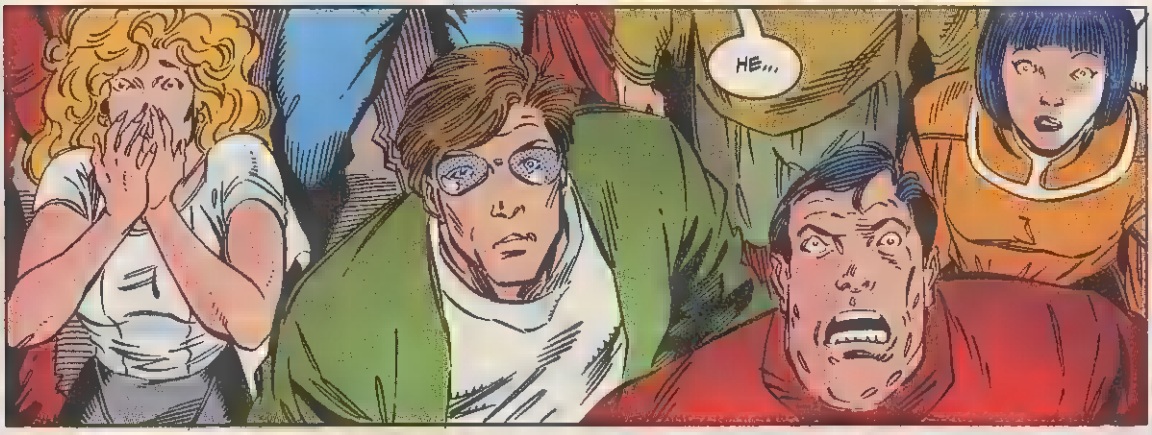
NOW ON SALE

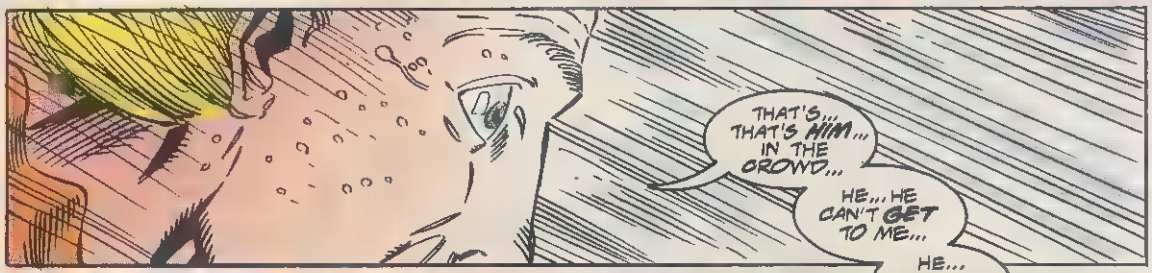
- **ANNEX #2:** Brace yourself for the mysterious villain called **Brace**! By Harris/McDaniel/Banning!
- **BEAUTY & THE BEAST #1:** The tale as old as time is now a monthly comic! By Slate/Quarten!
- **CABLE #15:** Learn the secret of Jean Grey's clone! By Loeb/Brewer!
- **CAPTAIN AMERICA #431:** Smells like **Free Spirit** — a new female super patriot! By Gruenwald/Hoover/Bulanadi!
- **CONAN SAGA #90:** I'll trade you one jackal's tongue for the Eye of the Serpent! By Thomas/Chaykin/Chan!
- **DAREDEVIL #332:** With Cap, and Gambit against **System Crash, Strucker**, and **HYDRA**! By Chichester/McDaniel/Collazo!
- **DARKHAWK #43:** Darkhawk returns to Earth — only to disappear! By Fingeroth/Smith/Akin!
- **FORCE WORKS #3:** The Scatter are raising quite a clatter! By Abnett & Lanning/Tenny/Garcia!
- **GROO THE WANDERER #116:** For the first time, Groo is *written* by Sergio! By Aragones/Aragones/Aragones!
- **MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS** [redacted] Catch a Tigra by the tail!
- **MARVEL'S [redacted] SUPER-HERO BATTLES TRADE PAPERBACK:** Reprinting classic clashes!
- **NAMOR #54:** Meet the son of Namor! He's got his father's ears! By Herdling/Isherwood!
- **REN & STIMPY #22:** A fairy tale issue featuring Little Red Riding Hoek! By Dutter/Mitchroney!
- **SOLO #1:** In solo action against **Deathstorm** and... oh yeah — **Spider-Man!** By Fein/Randall!
- **SPIDER-MAN [redacted] #23:** It's a risky venture when **Risque** fights **Venture**! By David/Leonardi/Williamson!
- **SPIDER-MAN 2099 ANNUAL #1:** You'll have a nuclear meltdown when you meet **Chernobyl**! By David & Edgington/Various/Ivy!
- **UNCANNY X-MEN #316:** The *next generation* of mutants starts here! By Lobdell/Madureira!
- **[redacted] SPIDER-MAN #116:** What lurks behind the armor of **Facade**? By Kavanagh/Saviuk/Baskerville!
- **X-MEN [redacted] #1:** All you ever wanted to know about your favorite mutants!

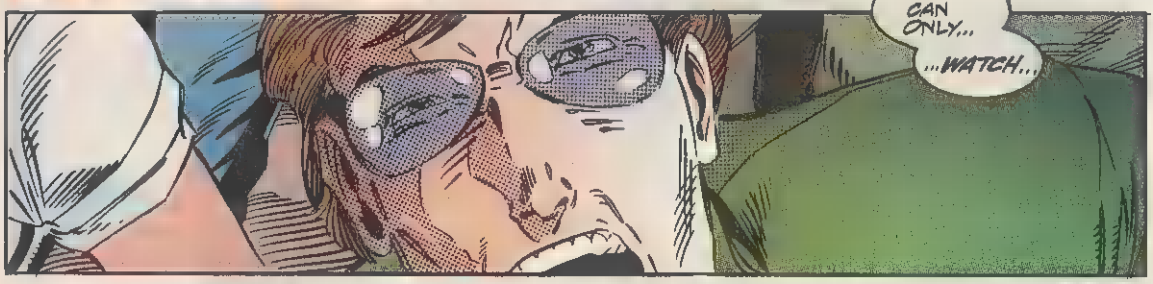

I HATE RUNNING OUT ON HIM. I HATE IT.
BUT HE HASN'T LEFT ME ANY CH--
HI, HONEY...
...I'M HOME...
OH, MY--
OH, KENNY... OH, LORD, LOOK AT YOU...
JUST... GOTTA SIT... I'LL BE FINE...
YOU'RE NOT GONNA [redacted] FINE! LOOK AT WHAT YOU'RE [redacted] TO YOURSELF!
YOU'LL GET YOURSELF KILLED!
NO... NO, I'M PART OF SPIDER-MAN'S DIVINE PLAN.
HE WON'T LET ME DIE. HE'S WATCHING ME. HE--

HE'S JUST A MAN, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
YOU'VE BUILT HIM UP INTO THIS... THIS THING IN YOUR HEAD!
HE HAS NO PLANS FOR YOU! HE PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE!
YOU'RE LYING!
YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
FIRST YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE ME, AND NOW YOU JUST WANT TO TEAR ME DOWN!
I'LL MAKE YOU BELIEVE! SPIDER-MAN IS WATCHING ME, AND I'M PART OF HIS DIVINE SCHEME, AND YOU'RE NOT, AND IT'S MAKING YOU CRAZY WITH JEALOUSY!
YOU'RE THE CRAZY ONE.
I'LL MAKE YOU BELIEVE! YOU'LL SEE!
I HAVE FAITH! I BELIEVE! AND YOU WILL, TOO!

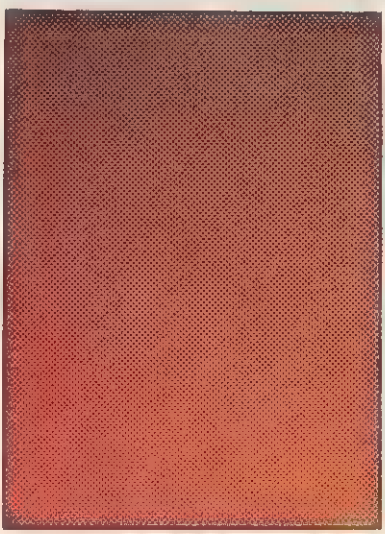

SPIDER-MAN, I...I WISH YOU'D SHOW UP ALREADY. I'M...I'M GETTING A LITTLE NERVOUS...
NO! NO, I'M NOT! I'M SORRY I DOUBTED...
LOREEN! I DID THIS FOR YOU, BABY!
TO MAKE YOU REALIZE!
TO MAKE YOU UNDER-STAND...
...THAT SPIDER-MAN IS WATCHING ME! HE--

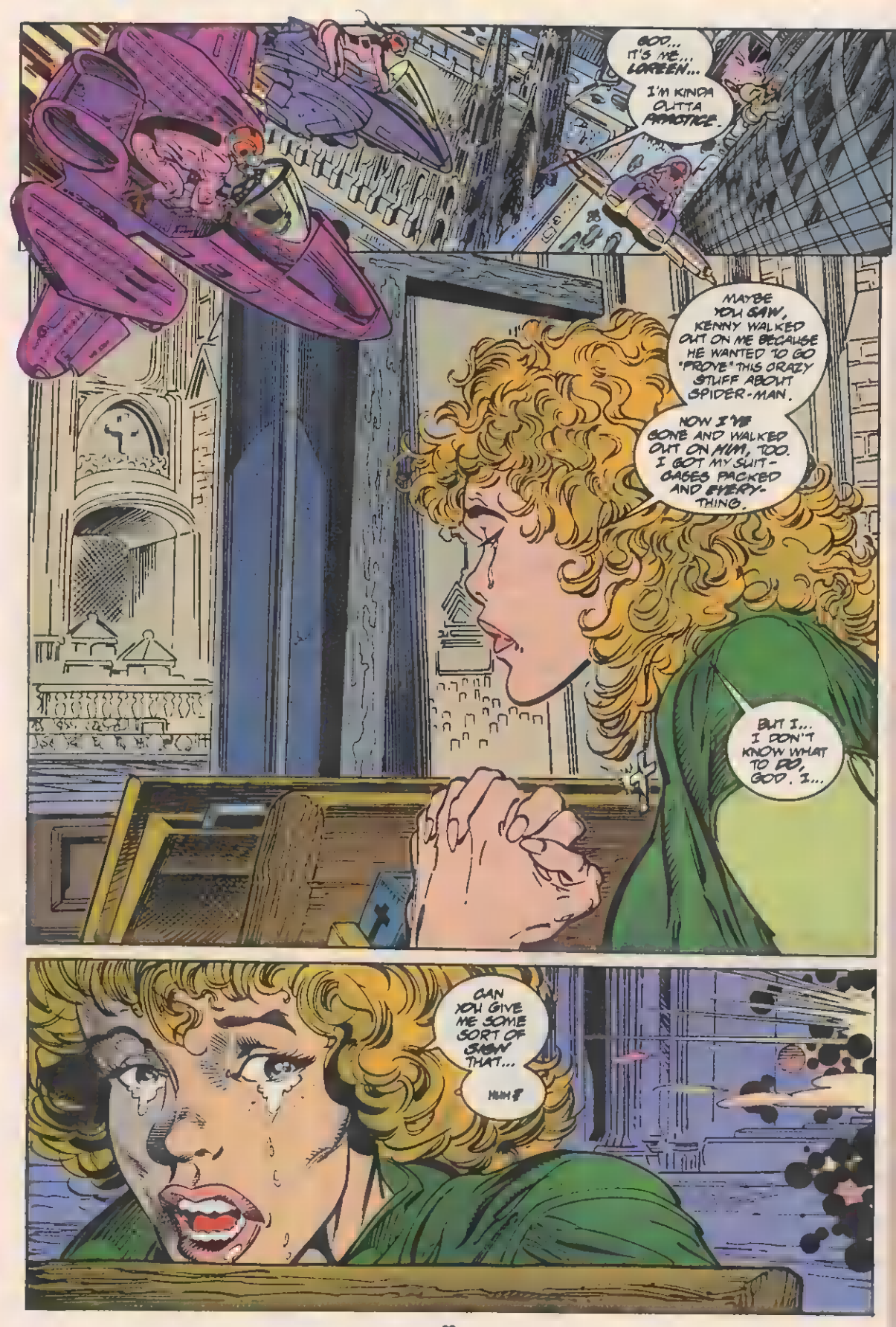

HE...


THAT'S... THAT'S HIM... IN THE CROWD...
HE... HE CAN'T GET TO ME...


HE... CAN ONLY...
...WATCH...

"...LOREEN..."




GOD... IT'S ME... LOREEN... I'M KINDA OUTTA PRACTICE.
MAYBE YOU SAW, KENNY WALKED OUT ON ME BECAUSE HE WANTED TO GO "PROVE" THIS CRAZY STUFF ABOUT SPIDER-MAN. NOW I'VE GONE AND WALKED OUT ON HIM, TOO. I GOT MY SUIT-CASES PACKED AND EVERY-THING.
BUT I... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, GOD. I...
CAN YOU GIVE ME SOME SORT OF SIGN THAT... HUH?

Stan Lee PRESENTS:
Faith Healer
HELLO. IS FATHER JENNIFER ABOUT?
PLEASE TELL HER THE MET PROPHET DESIRES A FEW MOMENTS OF HER TIME.
PETER DAVID WRITER
TOM GRINDBERG PENCILER
DON HUDSON INKER
STEVE DUTRO LETTERER
ROBBIE BUSCH COLORIST
JOEY CAVALIERI EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO CHIEF

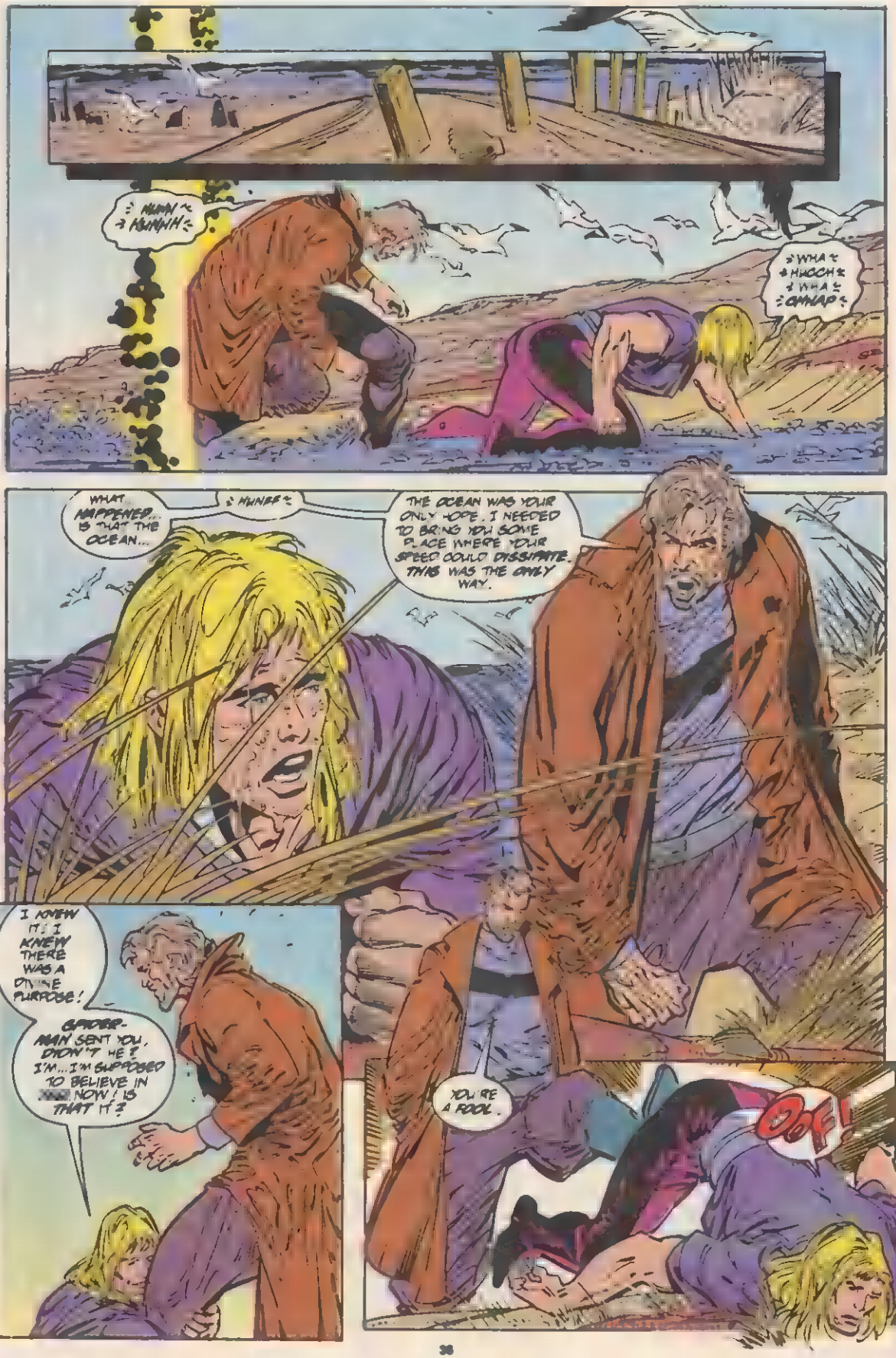
AHHH!
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
HE'S A FRIEND.
ONE I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE AGAIN, THOUGH.
I HAVE BEEN EXPLORING THIS WORLD, SEEKING THIS... THIS.
I AM TRYING TO FIGURE OUT SOME PURPOSE TO MY PRESENCE... AND NONE SEEMS FORTHCOMING. ANY SUGGESTIONS?
WE... WE TRUST IN GOD'S WILL, MY SON. ALL WILL BE REVEALED.
SPEAKING OF WORSHIP... I HAVE NOTICED MANY SPLINTER GROUPS WORSHIPPING INDIVIDUALS. SPIDER-MAN, THOR... CREATURES IN NEW ATLANTIS...
WHY DO I SUSPECT THAT GOD PREFERS SURPRISE ENDINGS?
THIS STRIKES A CHORD IN WHAT LITTLE MEMORY I POSSESS.

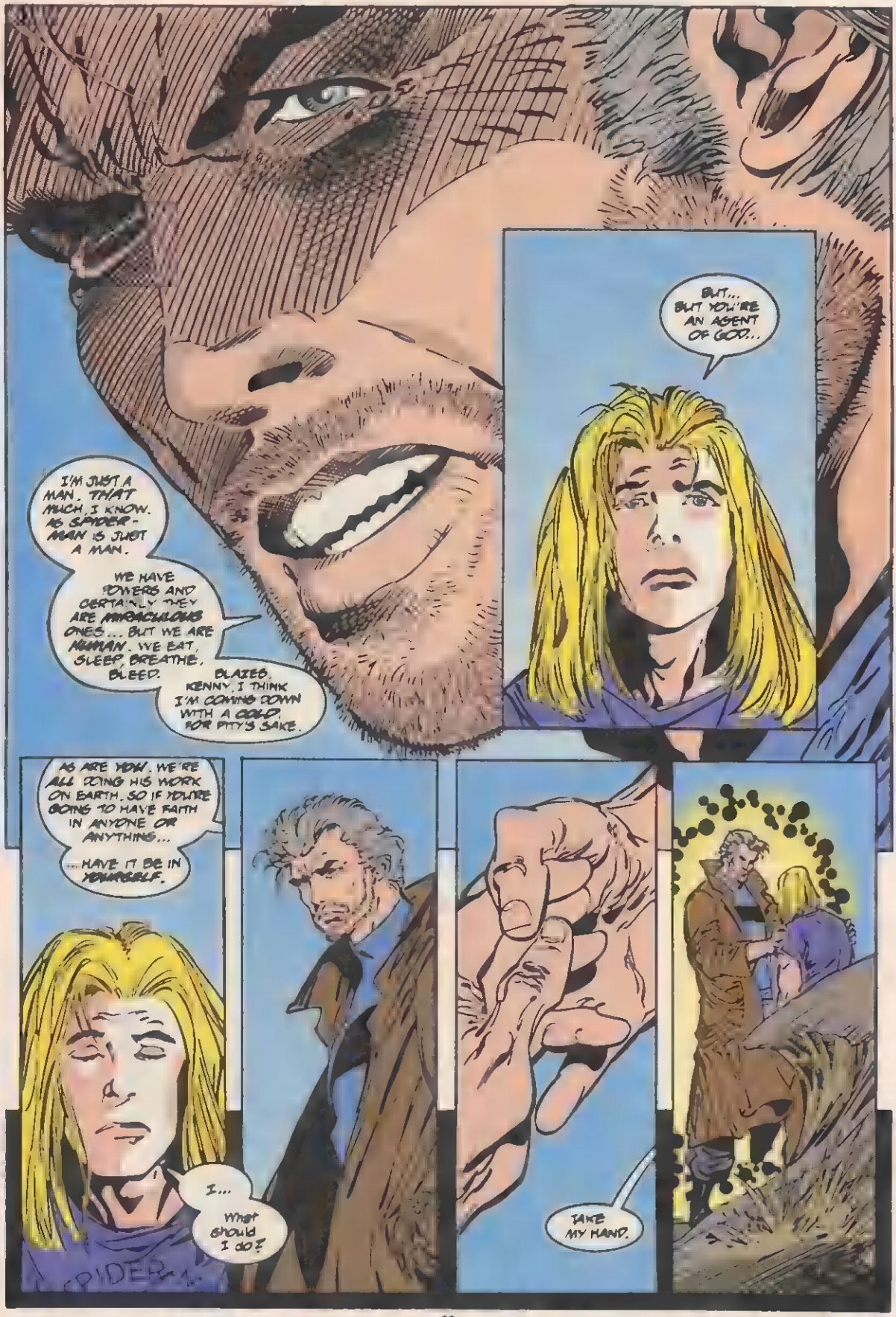
I BELIEVE... I WAS WORSHIPPED ONCE. I DON'T THINK I LIKED IT.
MY HUSBAND... KENNY... HE FORMED THE "SPIDER-ITES". I'M... I'M AFRAID HE'S GOING TO GET HIMSELF KILLED...
HAVE YOU A PICTURE OF HIM?
YES, BUT... I [illegible]'T UNDERSTAND...
NOR DO I. BUT I HAVE LEARNED TO ACCEPT MY POWER, NOT QUESTION IT.
SOME THINGS, YOU SEE, WORK BETTER ON FAITH.
BUT FAITH, WHILE A USEFUL BANDAGE ON IGNORANCE...
...IS ILL-[illegible] TO BE A CRUTCH FOR AN EMOTIONAL CRIPPLE.
I SHALL TALK TO YOUR HUSBAND.

FOR THE NET PROPHET, TO [redacted] A PLACE OR PERSON IS TO BE DRAWN TO IT AT WILL.
THE TIMING, HOWEVER, IS NOT ALWAYS IDEAL.
OHHH...
OUT OF THE WAY! IF I CAN'T MOVE MY ARMS, I CAN'T SAVE HIM!
WORRY ABOUT MOVING YOUR BUTT AND SAVING THAT!
...DEAR.
DID IT!

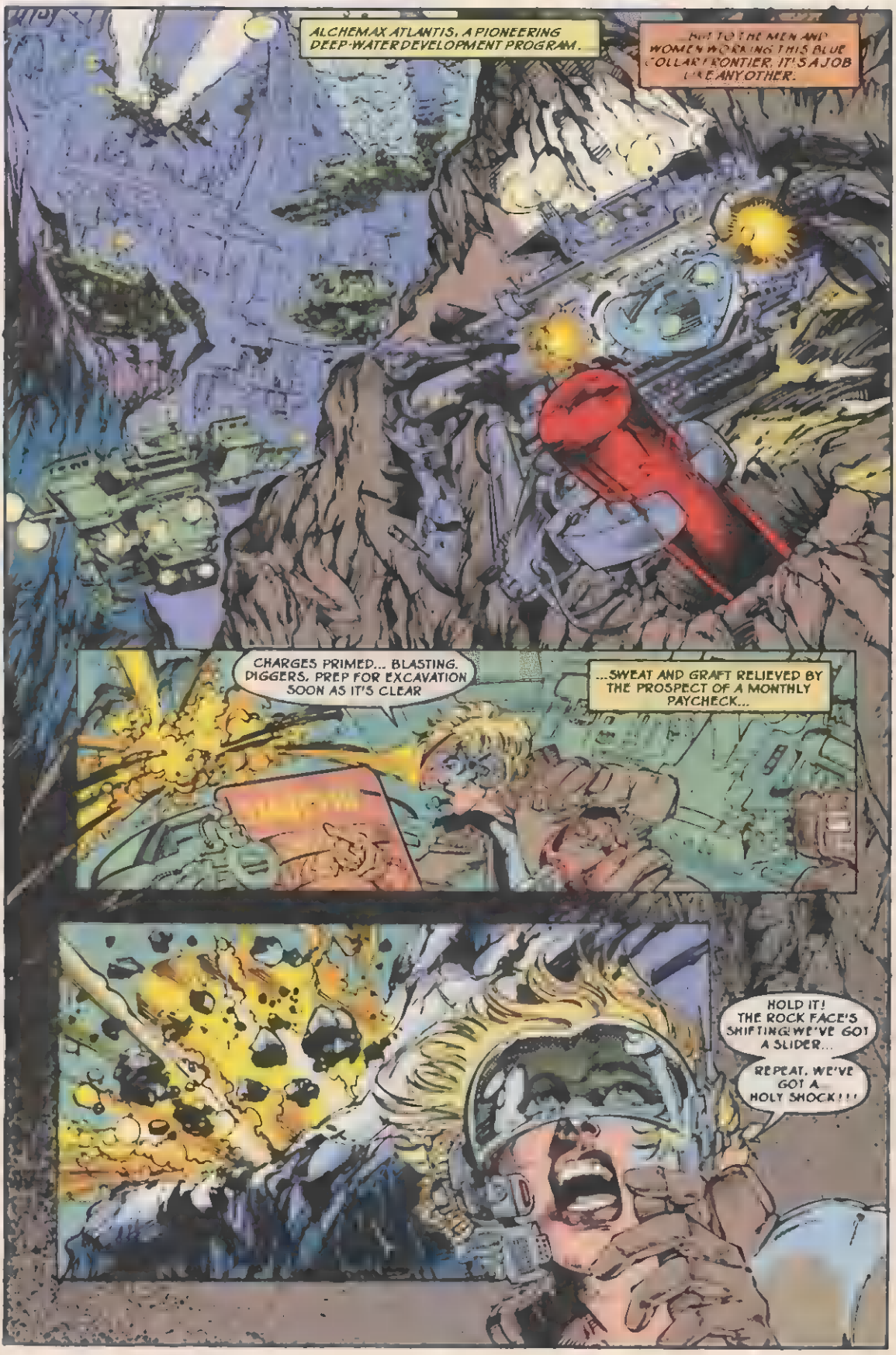
WHA--?!
MIGUEL, GET BACK! YOU CAN'T--!
MIGUEL! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
THE WHOLE CITY'S BEEN NUTS SINCE THE AESIR!
THAT WEIRD NOISE - THAT'S - NOT - A - NOISE... AND THE LIGHT...
I'M NOT SURE... BUT IT COULD'VE BEEN THE NET PROPHET.
I'LL NEVER KNOW FOR SURE.

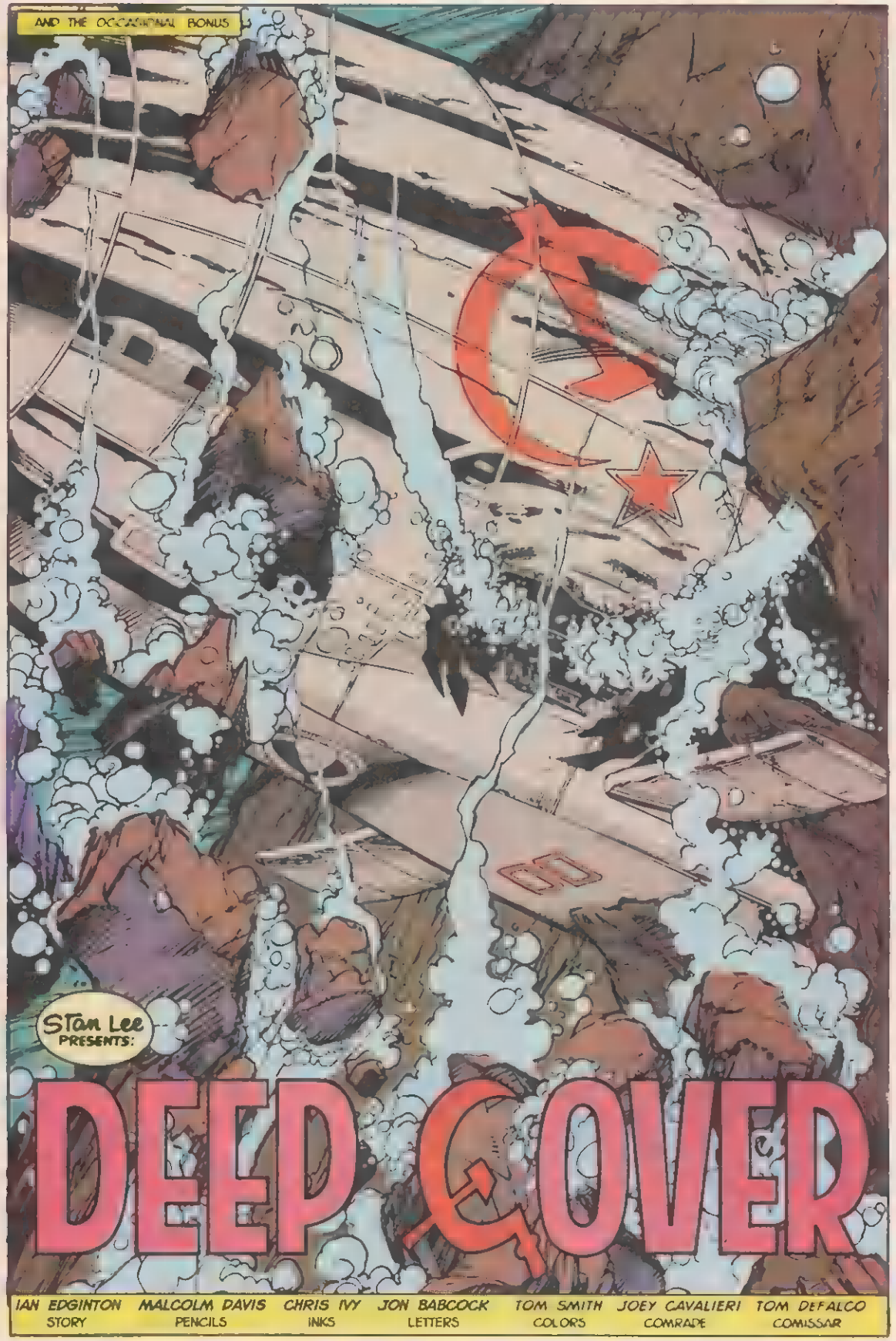
GLUUGG


MMM MMMH
WHA HUCH WHA OHHH
WHAT... HAPPENED... IS THAT THE OCEAN...
MMMM
THE OCEAN WAS YOUR ONLY HOPE. I NEEDED TO BRING YOU SOME PLACE WHERE YOUR SPEED COULD DISSIPATE. THIS WAS THE ONLY WAY.
I KNEW IT! I KNEW THERE WAS A DIVINE PURPOSE!
SPIDER-MAN SENT YOU, DIDN'T HE? I'M... I'M SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE IN [redacted] NOW! IS THAT IT?
YOU'RE A FOOL.
OOF!


BUT... BUT YOU'RE AN AGENT OF GOD...
I'M JUST A MAN. THAT MUCH, I KNOW. AS SPIDER-MAN IS JUST A MAN.
WE HAVE POWERS AND CERTAINLY THEY ARE MIRACULOUS ONES... BUT WE ARE HUMAN. WE EAT, SLEEP, BREATHE, BLEED.
BLAZES, KENNY, I THINK I'M COMING DOWN WITH A COLD, FOR PITY'S SAKE.
AS ARE YOU. WE'RE ALL DOING HIS WORK ON EARTH. SO IF YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE FAITH IN ANYONE OR ANYTHING...
...HAVE IT BE IN YOURSELF.
I... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
TAKE MY HAND.

LOREEN!
KENNY!
MIND TELLING ME WHAT HAPPENED?
ONLY SEVERAL BILLION TO GO.
LONG TERM? HARD TO SAY.
SHORT TERM, I SAVED ONE FELLOW HUMAN FROM HIS OWN FOOLISHNESS.
END?

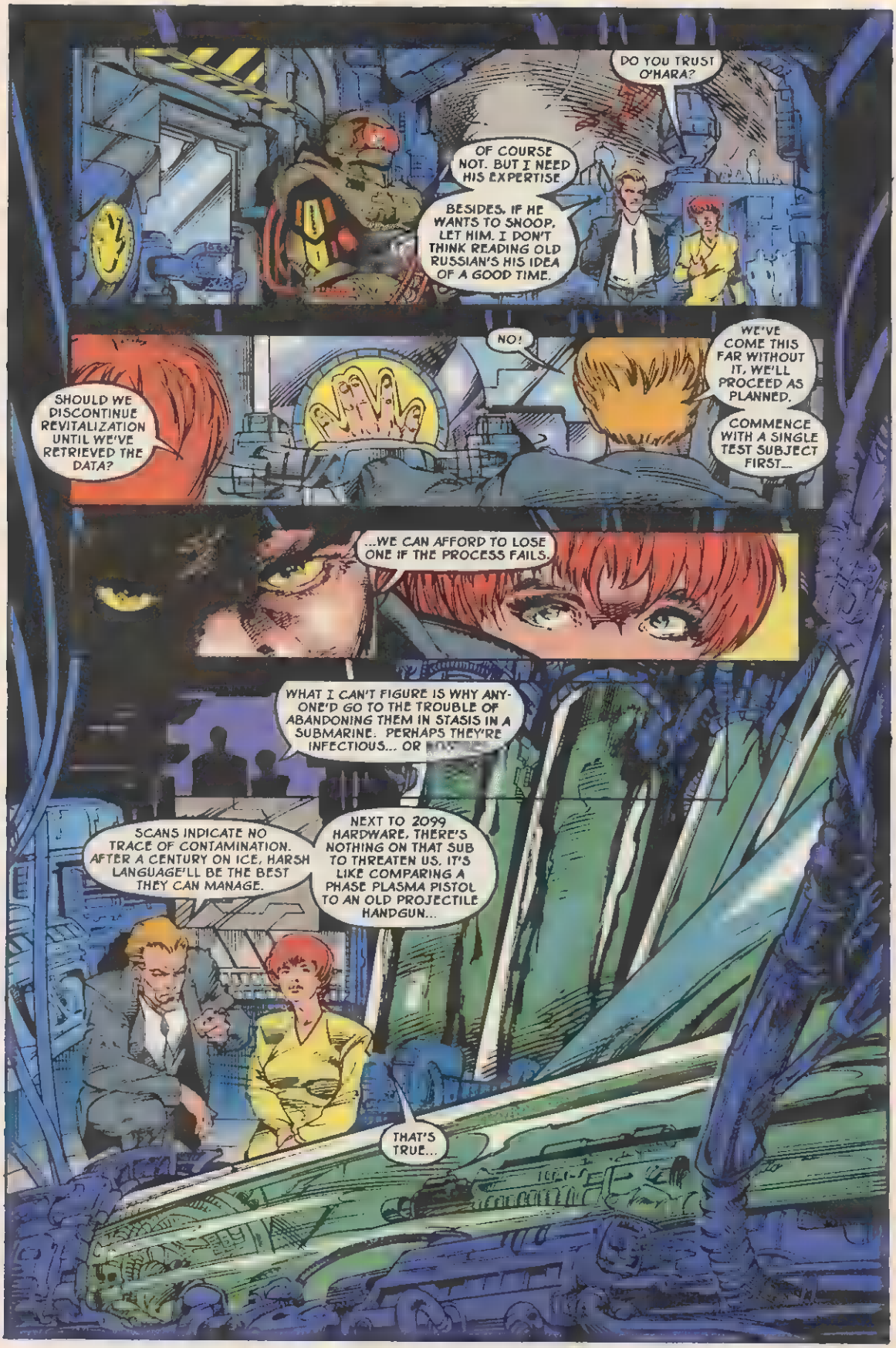

ALCHEMAX ATLANTIS, A PIONEERING DEEP-WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.
...BUT TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WORKING THIS BLUE COLLAR FRONTIER, IT'S A JOB LIKE ANY OTHER.
CHARGES PRIMED... BLASTING. DIGGERS, PREP FOR EXCAVATION SOON AS IT'S CLEAR
...SWEAT AND GRAFT RELIEVED BY THE PROSPECT OF A MONTHLY PAYCHECK...
HOLD IT! THE ROCK FACE'S SHIFTING! WE'VE GOT A SLIDER...
REPEAT, WE'VE GOT A HOLY SHOCK!!!



IAN EDGINTON STORY
MALCOLM DAVIS PENCILS
CHRIS IVY INKS
JON BABCOCK LETTERS
TOM SMITH COLORS
JOEY CAVALIERI COMRADE
TOM DEFALCO COMISSAR

"ARE YOU GOING TO GRIPE ALL DAY?"
"NOPE. THOUGHT I'D MUMBLE FOR A WHILE. GET IN SOME INTENSIVE GRUMBLING BEFORE LUNCH, THEN..."
"MIGUEL!"
AHEM. THIS IS CHRISTA DEVANE. SPECIAL PROJECTS DIRECTOR, ALCHEMAX R&D. WHERE WE'RE HEADING.
TYLER'S TOLD ME A LOT ABOUT YOU.
HMM. ALL BAD, NO DOUBT?
MIGUEL'S SULKING BECAUSE I TORE HIM AWAY FROM HIS WORK.
ONLY A MONTH'S EFFORT DOWN THE TUBES! DON'T LOSE ANY SLEEP OVER IT!
I UNDERSTAND YOU MAJORED IN TWENTIETH CENTURY COMPUTER FORMATS AT THE ACADEMY? UNUSUAL CHOICE?
YEAH, I HAD THIS YOUTHFUL, IDEALISTIC NOTION WE'D BENEFIT THE FUTURE BY LEARNING FROM THE PAST.
SEE ANY CHANGES? ALL THAT CRAMMING ON TECH NO ONE'S SEEN IN...OVER.. A...CENTURY...
I--IT'S A SUB-MARINE?
ASTUTE AS EVER. I KNEW I'D PICKED THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB.

REACTOR CORE DECAY RATE DATES IT AT AROUND ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIVE YEARS OLD
THAT'S
EARLY HEROIC AGE. THIS IS A TIME CAPSULE FROM A LOST ERA.
ON-BOARD SYSTEMS ARE FUNCTIONAL, BUT DELICATE. FOR DATABASE ASSIMILATION BY A CONTEMPORARY SYSTEM IT'LL REQUIRE SOMEONE FAMILIAR WITH ANTIQUE FORMATS.
THREE GUESSES WHO THAT MIGHT BE, HUH, TYLER?
ALL KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, MIGUEL. THE SUM OF EVERYTHING WE ARE IS REFLECTED IN OUR PAST ENDEAVORS.
DEEP. YOU'VE BEEN READING TOO MANY FORTUNE COOKIES. SUPPOSE TURNING IT INTO FAST CREDITS NEVER HURT EITHER, RIGHT?
PRECISELY!
THAT WHY YOU SHIPPED MY EQUIPMENT OUT HERE WITHOUT TELLING ME FIRST?
LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE STARTED TAKING THE PLACE APART ALREADY?!
LET ME MAKE SOMETHING CLEAR. YOU'RE A TALENTED EMPLOYEE, AS SUCH I ENDURE YOUR "ECCENTRIC" BEHAVIOR...
...BUT THE OPERATIVE WORD HERE IS "EMPLOYEE," UNDERSTAND?
PERFECTLY
GOOD! LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED.


DO YOU TRUST O'HARA?
OF COURSE NOT. BUT I NEED HIS EXPERTISE
BESIDES, IF HE WANTS TO SNOOP, LET HIM. I DON'T THINK READING OLD RUSSIAN'S HIS IDEA OF A GOOD TIME.
NO!
WE'VE COME THIS FAR WITHOUT IT, WE'LL PROCEED AS PLANNED.
COMMENCE WITH A SINGLE TEST SUBJECT FIRST...
SHOULD WE DISCONTINUE REVITALIZATION UNTIL WE'VE RETRIEVED THE DATA?
...WE CAN AFFORD TO LOSE ONE IF THE PROCESS FAILS.
WHAT I CAN'T FIGURE IS WHY ANYONE'D GO TO THE TROUBLE OF ABANDONING THEM IN STASIS IN A SUBMARINE. PERHAPS THEY'RE INFECTIOUS... OR
SCANS INDICATE NO TRACE OF CONTAMINATION. AFTER A CENTURY ON ICE, HARSH LANGUAGE'LL BE THE BEST THEY CAN MANAGE.
NEXT TO 2099 HARDWARE, THERE'S NOTHING ON THAT SUB TO THREATEN US. IT'S LIKE COMPARING A PHASE PLASMA PISTOL TO AN OLD PROJECTILE HANDGUN...
THAT'S TRUE...

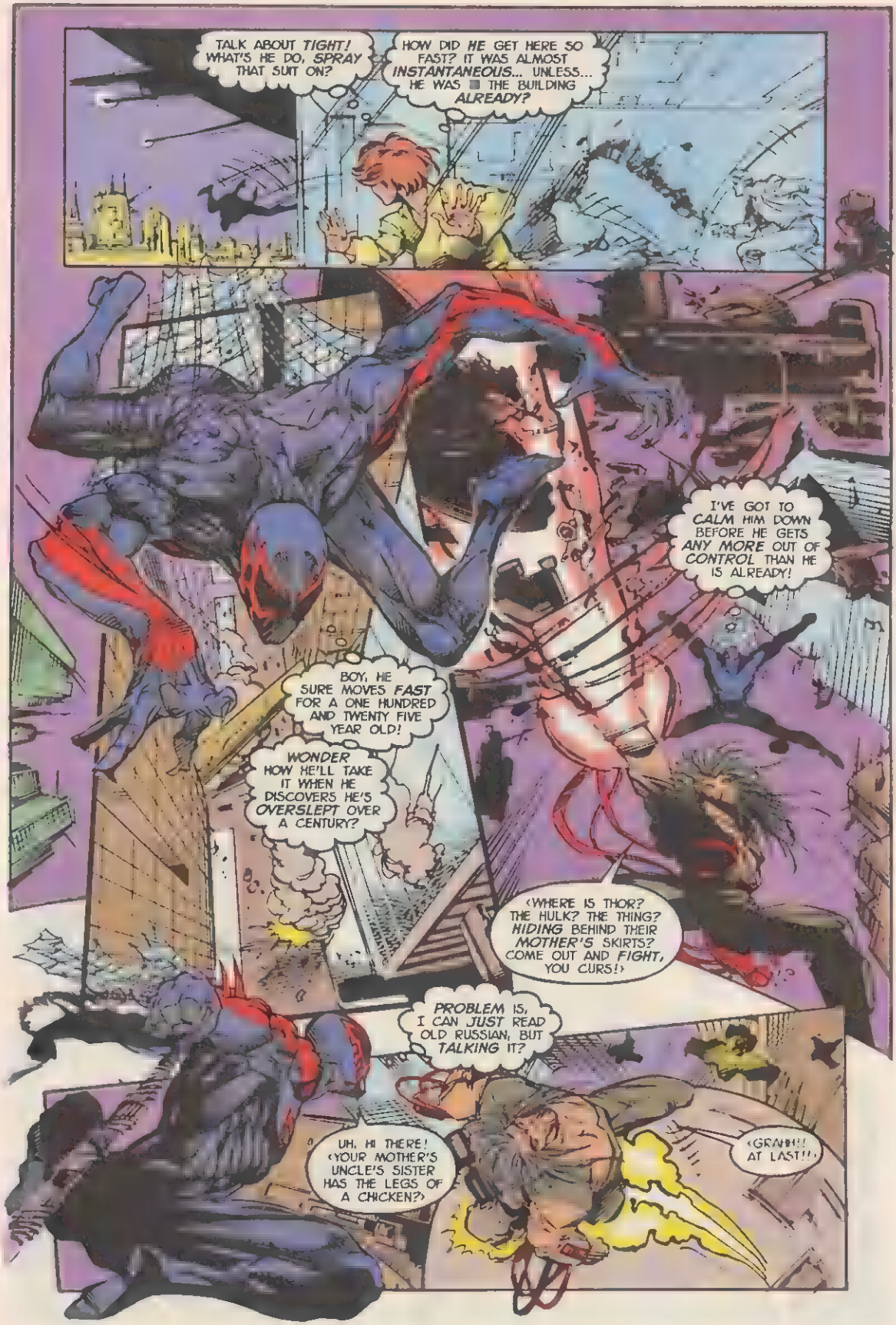
YAF KO ШАСТЮ DOT
NOF
DIRECTIVE RED
FIRST STRIKE
COVERT
DOKTOR OCTOBER/
DR.STEPHAN BUCHATSKY M.D.
CHERNOYBL/
MJR. VALENTINOV.
DAWN/
CAPT. RENKO.
THE BEAR/
SGT. GUDONOV.
HAMMER/
CPL. YURI LYSENKOVITCH.
SICKLE/
CPL.EVA LYSENKOVITCH.
"BUT THE HANDGUN CAN STILL TURN YOUR BRAINS INTO AN INTERESTING MURAL!"
LEAST SOMETHING'S GOING RIGHT TODAY, THIS'S EASIER'N I IMAGINED. NOT BAD FOR A WAGE SLAVE.
UH-OH! WISHFUL THINKING, O'HARA. A HUMONGOUS BLOCK OF PROTECTED MEMORY! I'LL HAVE TO HACK IT MANUALLY BEFORE IT'LL TRANSFER...
BETTER RUN A TRANSLATION PROGRAM SO I KNOW WHAT ...I'M DEALING...WITH...
OH, SHOCK! ...THIS'S BAD... THIS'S...
...EVEN WORSE! THOSE DISMANTLED UNITS...? SURELY NOT EVEN TYLER WOULD BE SO DUMB...?
WHO'M I KIDDING! OF COURSE HE WOULD!
GOTTA STOP HIM BEFORE HE DISCOVERS HIS PRECIOUS TIME CAPSULE'S A TIME BOMB ABOUT TO BLOW!!

INFORMATION ON THE HEROIC AGE IS SKETCHY AT BEST. THE DATA IN [redacted] HEADS, THEREFORE, IS A PRICELESS RESOURCE... ONE THAT COULD HELP WITH OUR OWN HEROIC INFESTATION.
DON'T COUNT THESE CHICKENS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED, TYLER. ONE WRONG MOVE, ALL ALCHEMAX'LL HAVE IS A BUNCH OF CORPSICLES!
OPTIMIZE THE TEST SUBJECTS' LIFE SIGNS... PREPARE TO DISENGAGE TANK UMBILICALS.
I WANT SALINE AND NUTRIENT FEEDS ON-LINE. [redacted] TELLING WHAT CONDITION HE'LL BE IN.
TYLER, YOU AVARICIOUS MAROON! YOU THINK YOU'RE SLICK, PLAYING SNEAKY CORPORATE GAMES. BUT THIS ONE'S [redacted] BLOW [redacted] IN YOUR FACE!
THE SUB'S MEMORY SAID ITS "CARGO" WAS AN ELITE UNIT OF PARA-HUMAN COMMANDOS FROM SOMETHING CALLED THE COLD [redacted]
THEY WERE DELIBERATELY PLACED IN STASIS OFF THE AMERICAN COAST, TO BE RE-ACTIVATED BY SATELLITE AS A FIRST STRIKE OPTION IF THE WAR HEATED UP!
BUT FOR SOME REASON THEY WERE ABANDONED [redacted] THE OCEAN FLOOR... UNTIL TYLER CAME CALLING!
SHOCK! SPIDER-MAN! HALT!

EXCEPT TYLER'S THE ONE WHO'LL GET A RUDE AWAKENING!
CHOOOMM!!
‹WHAT PLACE IS THIS?! IT IS CLEARLY NOT THE SUBMARINE, BUT I HAVE BEEN REVIVED, NEVERTHELESS! HAS THE WORLD FLUNG ITSELF HEADLONG INTO WAR?› *
‹SPEAK! TELL ME WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE OR SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF CHERNOBYL, KNIGHT OF THE SOVIET PEOPLE!›
GUH... I CUH... CAN'T... BUH... BREATHE...
‹AN AMERICAN? AN AMERICAN!!›
*TRANSLATED FROM RUSSIAN.

WHY ME? WHY AM I ALWAYS A MAGNET FOR SUPERHERO FRUITLOOPS? MAYBE IT'S MY COLOGNE!
‹I HAVE BEEN BETRAYED TO MY ENEMIES!›
‹BE WARNED! YOU WILL FIND ME NO EASY CONQUEST! SEND ME YOUR PUPPET HEROES! THE FLAG-WEARING FOOL, CAPTAIN AMERICA, I WILL PUNISH HIM WITH MY FISTS!›
SHRAAKK!
‹EH? ATTACKING FROM BEHIND! A TYPICAL, CORRUPT, CAPITALIST PLOY!›
WIDE FIELD FIRE, BRING HIM DOWN! BUT DON'T HIT MR. STONE..
...IF YOU CAN HELP IT
CHOOM
‹PAH! MERE SOLDIERS, CANNON FODDER!›

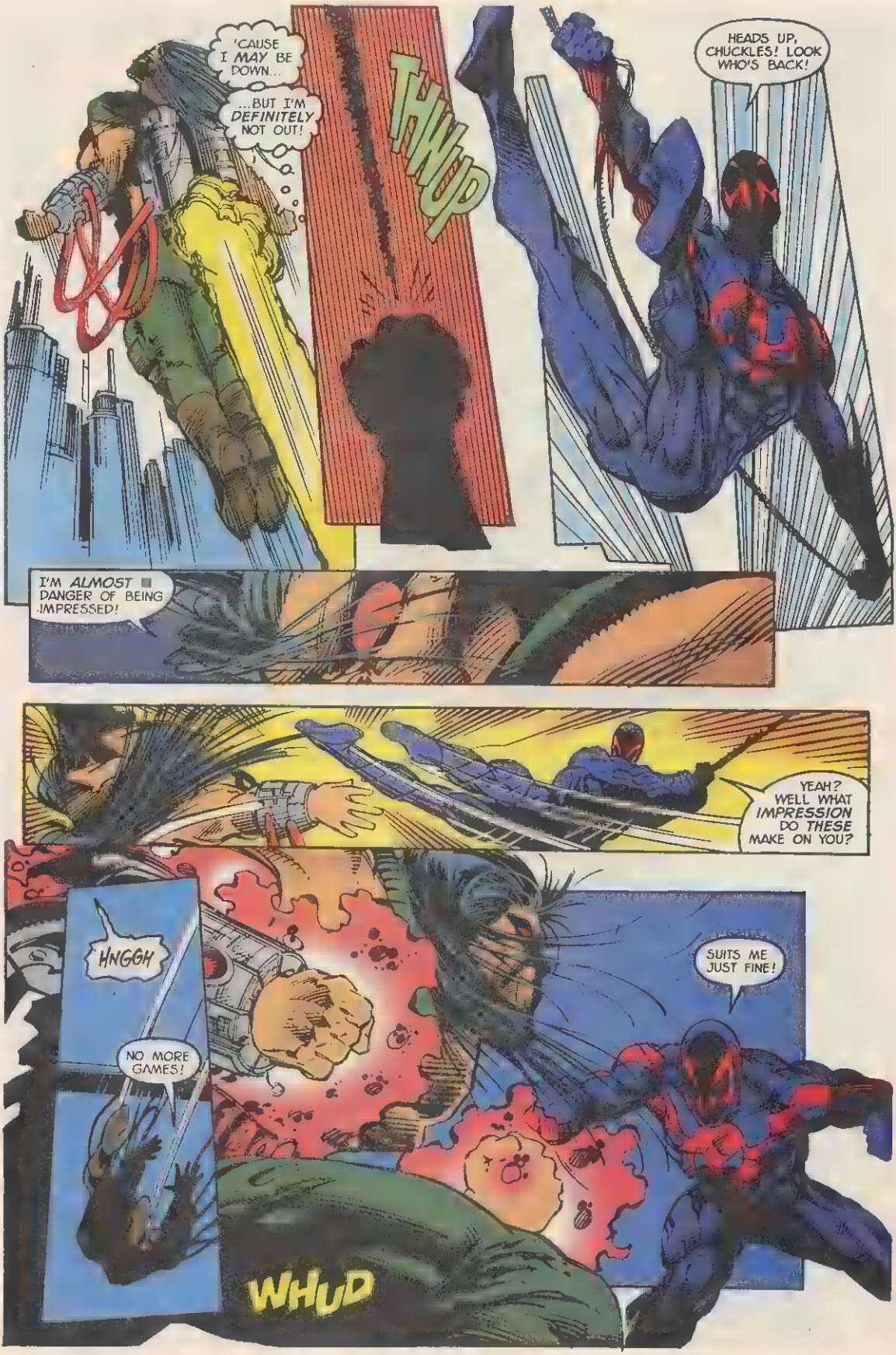
‹IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN RALLY AGAINST ME?›
‹WHERE [redacted] AMERICA'S HEROES? WHY WON'T THEY FACE ME?›
‹PERHAPS A MORE VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION IS REQUIRED...›
‹...IN THE WORLD AT LARGE!›
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE SAID, BUT IT DIDN'T SOUND GOOD...
SOMEONE'S TAKING A FALL FOR THIS AND IT'S NOT GOING TO BE ME!
DEVANE! YOUR GLUTEUS MAXIMUS IS ASTRO-TURF! I COULD HAVE BEEN DEAD-WARED BY THAT... AND YOU DIDN'T EVEN WIGGLE A DIGIT TO STOP HIM!
SORRY, TYLER... BUT YOU'RE MISTAKING ME FOR SOMEONE WHO GIVES A SHOCK.
PICKING ON INJURED WOMEN, HUH? THAT'S SUBTERRANEAN, STONE! WHAT NEXT? STEALING CANDY FROM PRE-JUVES?
SPIDER-MAN!


TALK ABOUT TIGHT! WHAT'S HE DO, SPRAY THAT SUIT ON?
HOW DID HE GET HERE SO FAST? IT WAS ALMOST INSTANTANEOUS... UNLESS... HE WAS IN THE BUILDING ALREADY?
I'VE GOT TO CALM HIM DOWN BEFORE HE GETS ANY MORE OUT OF CONTROL THAN HE IS ALREADY!
BOY, HE SURE MOVES FAST FOR A ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY FIVE YEAR OLD!
WONDER HOW HE'LL TAKE IT WHEN HE DISCOVERS HE'S OVERSLEPT OVER A CENTURY?
‹WHERE IS THOR? THE HULK? THE THING? HIDING BEHIND THEIR MOTHER'S SKIRTS? COME OUT AND FIGHT, YOU CURS!›
PROBLEM IS, I CAN JUST READ OLD RUSSIAN, BUT TALKING IT?
UH, HI THERE! ‹YOUR MOTHER'S UNCLE'S SISTER HAS THE LEGS OF A CHICKEN?›
‹GRAHH!!! AT LAST!!›

I KNOW OF YOU, SPIDER-MAN! YOUR COSTUME HAS CHANGED, BUT THAT IS NOTHING TO ME SO LONG AS THE [illegible] IT IS YOURS!
THE SICK HEART OF THE CAPITALIST WEST IS EVEN MORE DECADENT THAN I'D IMAGINED!
NOW HE SPEAKS ENGLISH!
I SHALL [illegible] IT TO THE GROUND, BEGINNING WITH ITS GUARD[illegible]
UHHNN... HE'S WEARING... EXO-SUIT... CRUSHING... GOT TO BREAK...
THWUP
...FREE!!
GOT TO CONVINCE HIM SOMEHOW THAT THIS ISN'T THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND I'M NOT THE ORIGINAL WEB-SLINGER...

...OR ELSE ALL HEL'S GONNA BREAK LOOSE!
SHOCK! HE'S OUT OF CONTROL! HE'S FLYING BLIND!
SKEESSHH!
HEY, YOU OKAY IN THERE? LISTEN, WE REALLY NEED TO TALK. THIS ISN'T THE ERA YOU THINK IT IS...
IT'S 2099... OVER A CENTURY SINCE YOU WENT INTO THE SUBMARINE. WHATEVER THE COLD WAR WAS, IT'S OVER... FINISHED... FORGOTTEN!
LIES!
NO, REALLY! BENEATH THIS MASK I HAVE AN HONEST FACE!
KRAK!

LET'S GET ONE THING CLEAR. NO WAY I'M LETTING THE LIKES OF YOU TRASH MY CITY!
IT MAY OCCASIONALLY BE LOUD AND OBNOXIOUS, LIKE SOME PEOPLE I KNOW, BUT IT'S HOME...
...AND I'M NOT LETTING YOU TOUCH ONE HAIR ON ITS METAPHORICAL HEAD!
WANT IT SO BADLY?
LET'S TOSS FOR IT!
WHAKK!
CLUD
HEADS! YOU LOSE!
HAH! NEW YORK, THE BIG APPLE! I SHALL POUND THIS ROTTEN FRUIT TO A PULP AND CRUSH ITS HEROES LIKE MAGGOTS AS THEY FLEE!
THIS FROM A GUY WHO TALKS TO HIMSELF? I JUST NEED A COUPLE OF SECONDS TO CATCH MY BREATH...

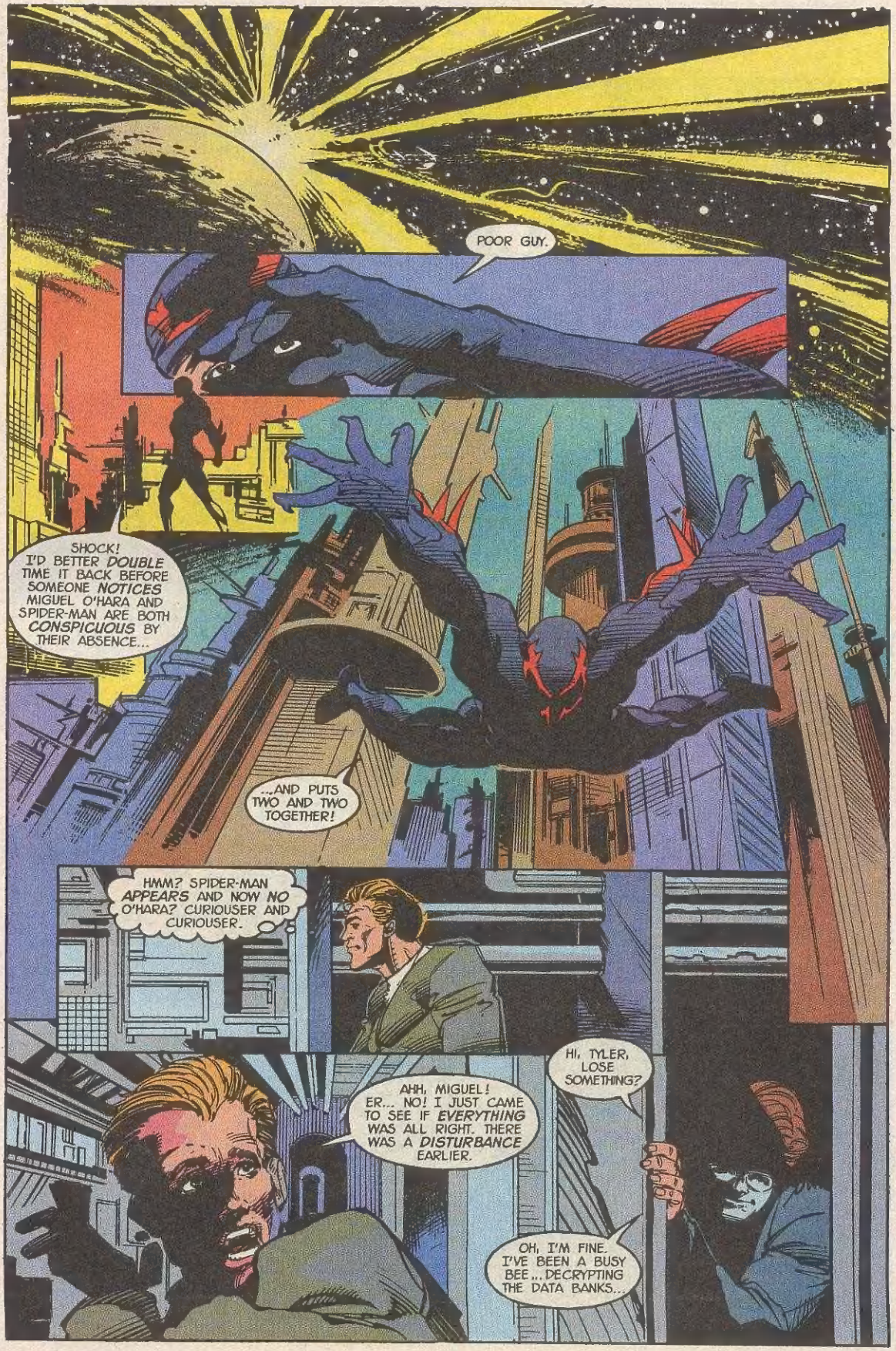

'CAUSE I MAY BE DOWN...
...BUT I'M DEFINITELY NOT OUT!
THWP
HEADS UP, CHUCKLES! LOOK WHO'S BACK!
I'M ALMOST DANGER OF BEING IMPRESSED!
YEAH? WELL WHAT IMPRESSION DO THESE MAKE ON YOU?
HNGGH
NO MORE GAMES!
SUITS ME JUST FINE!
WHUD

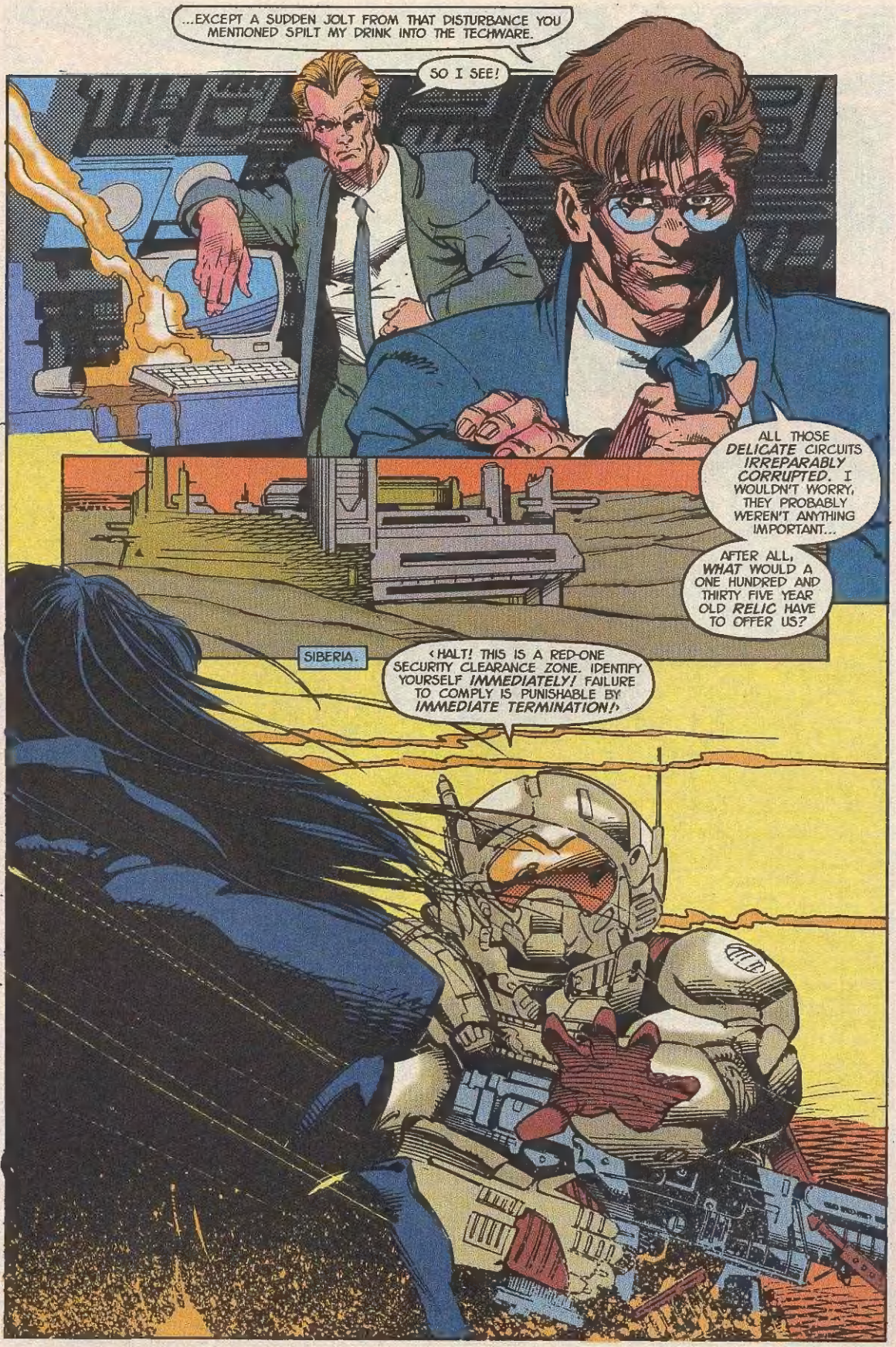
SHRIIIPPP
I STILL WANT TO TRY REASONING WITH HIM. IF I CAN JUST DISABLE HIS EXO-SKELETON ENOUGH TO SLOW HIM UP...
HE'S BLEEDING! I CUT HIM WORSE THAN I FIGURED... HOLD IT...HE'S NOT "WEARING" AN EXO-SKELETON! IT'S ACTUALLY PART OF HIM!
bp
C'MON, GUY, GIVE IT UP! WE'VE GOT TO TALK, Y'KNOW? DETENTE? GLASNOST?
I LET MY FISTS TALK FOR ME.
SKRIKK!
THIS'S USELESS, GONNA HAVE TO TAKE HIM DOWN ALL THE WAY.
KRAKOOM
LORD! HE'S NO OLDER THAN I AM!

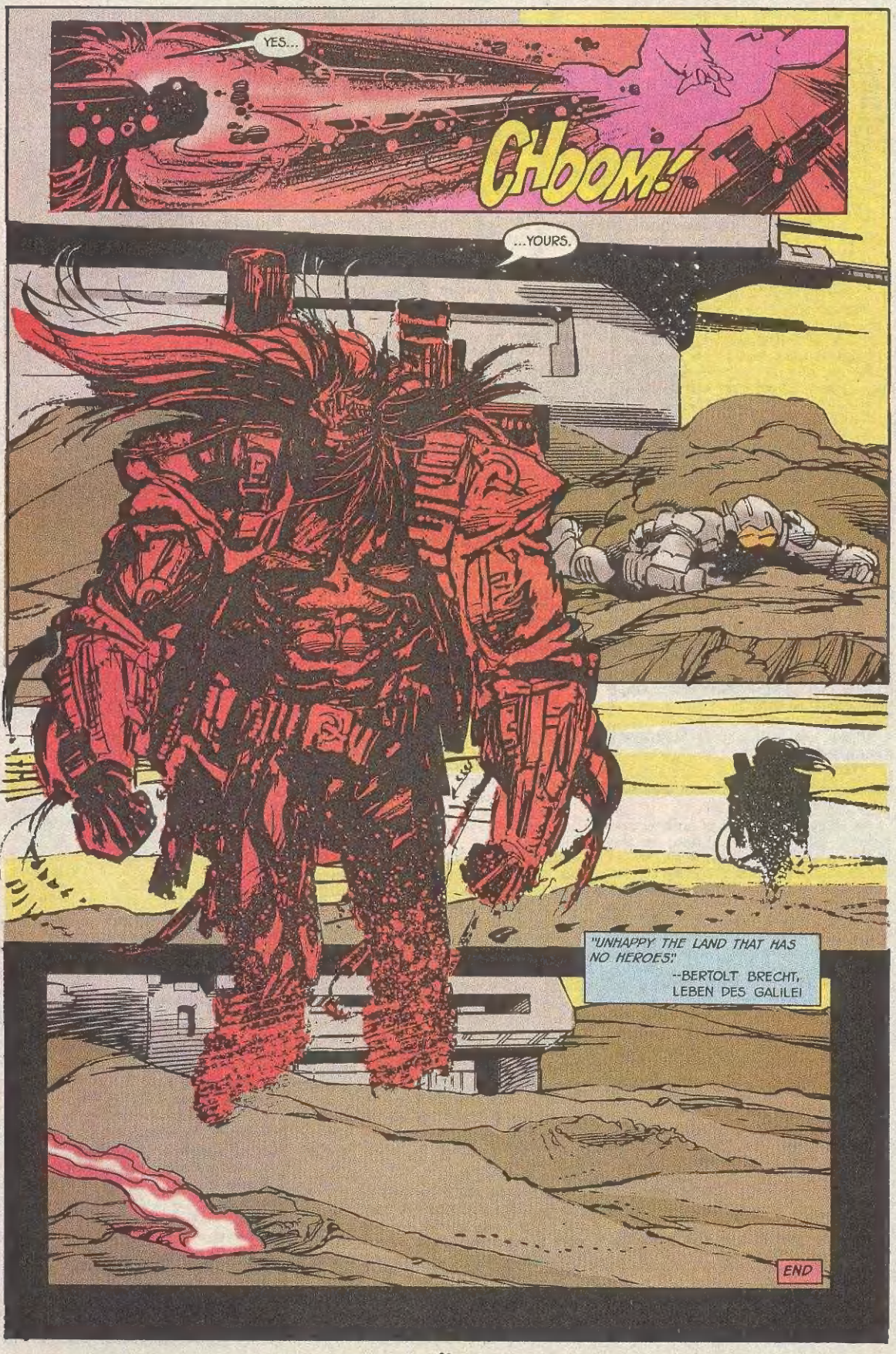
LOOK, GET A GRIP. YOU COULD HURT THOUSANDS OF INNOCENT... WELL, MOSTLY INNOCENT PEOPLE. I CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN!
TODAY'S SUPERTYPES ARE PARIAHS, NOT HEROES!
YOU WERE IN STASIS MUCH LONGER THAN YOU IMAGINE. YOU'RE FIGHTING A WAR THAT ENDED THIRTEEN DECADES AGO!
I HAVE FUH... FAILED, BUT I AM A GOOD SOLDIER... I WILL SERVE UNTO THE LAST... THANKS TO YOU.
UH-OH.
YOU'VE CONDEMNED EVERY SOUL IN THIS CITY TO CERTAIN DEATH. THE DERMA-CIRCUITRY YOU SO SKILLFULLY SHREDDED CHANNELED AND REGULATED MY INTEGRAL BIO-AURA ENERGY FIELD...
...THE CONSEQUENTIAL OVERLOAD NOW ACCUMULATING WILL DECIMATE A ZONE OF A THOUSAND KILOMETER RADIUS!
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE BETTER MYSELF!

LISTEN, CREEP! GET THIS INTO YOUR SKULL! THIS IS THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY! YOU'RE NOT A SHOCKIN' WAR HERO HERE...
...YOU'RE JUST A PSYCHO WITH A BOMB IN HIS SHORTS ABOUT TO OBLITERATE A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE WHO COULDN'T SPELL "RUSSIA," LET ALONE SAY WHERE IT IS!
TAKE A GOOD LOOK, SPORT! SOAK IN THE VIEW OF THE PLACE YOU'RE ABOUT TO ANNIHILATE! DOES IT LOOK LIKE THE AMERICA YOU WERE TAUGHT TO HATE BEFORE YOU HIT THE Z'S? DOES IT?
DO THEY HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THIS BACK ON THE OLD AGRICULTURAL COLLECTIVE?
THE CAUSE AND COUNTRY YOU WERE READY TO DIE AND KILL FOR'S GONE. NO ONE REMEMBERS. NO ONE CARES. ARE YOU GOING TO MURDER US FOR OUR IGNORANCE?
ALL FOR NOTHING... COMRADES... FAMILY... DEAD... GONE, LIKE ASHES IN THE WIND.
YOU'RE A SOLDIER, NOT A BUTCHER. KILLING'S EASY. SHOWING MERCY ISN'T.

TOO LATE! THE MOLECULAR CHAIN REACTION'S ALREADY BEGUN!
BUT I WON'T LET THE INNOCENT SUFFER! FAREWELL, SPIDER-MAN!
LET IT BE SAID ARKADY VALENTINOV IS A MAN OF HONOR... AND HE, DESPITE HIS ERRORS, DID THE HONORABLE THING!
I... YES! IT'S WORKING! IT'S...
THE PERMA-SKIN'S NEARING CRITICAL BIO-MASS MELTDOWN. IF I CAN REACH THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE, THE SUDDEN TEMPERATURE DROP COULD ACT AS A SYSTEM COOLANT...


POOR GUY.
SHOCK! I'D BETTER DOUBLE TIME IT BACK BEFORE SOMEONE NOTICES MIGUEL O'HARA AND SPIDER-MAN ARE BOTH CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE...
...AND PUTS TWO AND TWO TOGETHER!
HMM? SPIDER-MAN APPEARS AND NOW NO O'HARA? CURIOUSER AND CURIOUSER.
HI, TYLER, LOSE SOMETHING?
AHH, MIGUEL! ER... NO! I JUST CAME TO SEE IF EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT. THERE WAS A DISTURBANCE EARLIER.
OH, I'M FINE. I'VE BEEN A BUSY BEE... DECRYPTING THE DATA BANKS...


...EXCEPT A SUDDEN JOLT FROM THAT DISTURBANCE YOU MENTIONED SPILT MY DRINK INTO THE TECHWARE.
SO I SEE!
ALL THOSE DELICATE CIRCUITS IRREPARABLY CORRUPTED. I WOULDN'T WORRY, THEY PROBABLY WEREN'T ANYTHING IMPORTANT...
AFTER ALL, WHAT WOULD A ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIVE YEAR OLD RELIC HAVE TO OFFER US?
SIBERIA.
‹HALT! THIS IS A RED-ONE SECURITY CLEARANCE ZONE. IDENTIFY YOURSELF IMMEDIATELY! FAILURE TO COMPLY IS PUNISHABLE BY IMMEDIATE TERMINATION!›


YES...
CHOOM!
...YOURS.
"UNHAPPY THE LAND THAT HAS NO HEROES!"
--BERTOLT BRECHT, LEBEN DES GALILEI
END

ARACHNOPHILIA

JOEY CAVALIERI
EDITOR
LIA PELOSI
ASSISTANT EDITOR

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016

ATTENTION CORRESPONDENTS: ALL LETTERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PUBLICATION MUST INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS THOUGH WE WILL WITHHOLD THAT INFO BY REQUEST

Out Of My Head

"Good evening. Incompetent Overnight. How can we help you?"

"This is Joey Cavalieri at Marvel Comics. I sent Ron Lim a package with you and he called to tell me it hasn't arrived yet. Can you track it for me?"

"Last night, you say? I'm checking now for a package from Marvel Comics."

"Yeah, do you know when it will arrive?"

"No idea."

"Do you know where it is?"

"No idea."

"Do you know if I'll get it back?"

"No idea."

"Well, what's the deal?"

"It was sorted wrong, so we can't guarantee it will show up on time. All we can do is wait."

"Well, can you call when it shows up?"

"Yes, we can. Thank you for using Incompetent Overnight. Oh, and Mr. Cavalieri?"

"Yes?"

"Are you going to do an IRON MAN 2099?"

"No idea."

Dear Joey,

I'm offering this letter of support and praise of the work being done on the 2099 series, in particular SPIDER-MAN 2099. It's the best thing Marvel's put out in a long time. I grew up loving the "old" Spider-Man books but recently have been forced to turn my back on him. SPIDER-MAN 2099 however is absolutely wonderful! It's refreshingly engrossing and actually takes the time to develop characters in a thoughtful manner. I find my intelligence is not insulted by stories made up of quickly contrived hype, but instead is delighted by a sincere, creative and genuine interest in good storytelling. You have captured the true spirit of what Stan Lee and Steve Ditko began 30 years ago. I hope with all my heart you are able to freely continue your work.

So until other comic books put together creative teams half as dedicated as yours, make mine Marvel 2099!

Scott DuBar
6637 Sedra Trail
Georgetown, TX 78628

If Peter and Rick aren't blushing, Scott, they will be now!

Dear *Arachnophilia*,

In 2099 I get what I want... all I gotta do is ask? Heh, heh, heh... you got it.

First, since you'd like suggestions for the annual, I suggest you deal with a loose end. In issue #9, ex-sergeant Estevez went to an Indy called Nightshade and we never saw him again. It was hinted that he would turn into a major new villain (since Vulture was created by an Indy). The first annual would be the perfect place to introduce him. Unless of course Estevez was supposed to be the guy Thanatos possessed, but Spidey seems to be hated by quite a few people (Aaron Delgado, the Specialist, the Vulture, Venture), so it could've been anybody. Those were the two fates I saw for Estevez and I opt for the new villain. I hope you do too. If not, at least bring back the Vulture (you never really said he died).

Second, since you're intent on creating new 2099 titles, why not create a new hero? (Don't throw Ravage in my face, I know he's not a re-hash.) I believe you're seriously underestimating your public by assuming they only want to see new forms of old heroes. 2099 is new ground for Marvel, so why not entirely new heroes? If a character is well developed (and has interesting powers), he/she/it will have a following. I notice 2099's heroes are mostly males. How about a female hero? Think about it.

SPIDER-MAN 2099 is an excellent title. Peter David's characters are well rounded and intriguing. And I love Rick Leonardi's look for the future.

Wayne Griffin
(Address withheld by request)

2099 UNLIMITED is the place for you, Wayne! We have a spectacular group of new and different 2099 characters. As for Sgt. Estevez, be patient...

Dear whatever you call the letters page,

After an extensive poll (actually it took about 10 minutes) that involved thousands of collectors (actually it was about 3 and some hairy guy in the arcade) I'd like to present you with an award for best continuity and story in a Marvel comic. Apparently all the collectors we asked who have read your comic (about 2) said that they either have all 19 issues, or are hunting down to get the last couple (#2-3). So congrats, you've won an award that hasn't been named!

Also, to Rick, Peter or whomever gets the ideas for your covers: STOP IT! SPIDER-MAN 2099 usually comes out in the same week as the X-books and we want to read them first, so stop making your covers sooooo good (we would have given you the award for it, but we didn't make an award for best cover) that we can't make it past page one of X-MEN before we're dying to find out why Lyle is on the cover and not the S-Man. And with Peter's writing, we always end up disappointed with the X's story and don't read them anyway.

Steve Jacke
40 Horizon Dr.
Succasunna, NJ 07876

Thanks for the praise, Steve, but we never like comparing ourselves to other books. It's that apples and oranges thing, y'know?

Dear *Arachnophilia*,

I like everything about your mag. I like that he's still a non-mutant super hero. I like that he's not related to Peter Parker in any way. It would've been too easy to make him Peter Parker Jr. It's just being more creative when he's not an offspring.

I love his teeth and fangs and how he climbs walls. I really like the web spinnerettes in his arms. I like the way he got his spider powers and the costume, skull, webbed cape and all! It's very cool!

Before I close, I'd really like to thank Stan Lee for something. I know that we don't know each other, but I'd like to thank you because when I was younger I used to spend a lot of time alone or at my Grandma's place because my folks were busy with work and everything. Anyway, I spent most of my time reading Marvel comics while drinking a Coke or eating a Twinkie. I just wanted to thank you for giving me enjoyable afternoons and for boosting my imagination. I hope that SPIDER-MAN 2099 runs longer than the original! Thank you again!

Tom Roykouff
21 Pease St.
Trumansburg, NY 14886

Thank *you*, Tom, for reminding us why we take making comic books so seriously! We hope this SPIDEY 2099 ANNUAL provides you with another memorable afternoon!

MORE OF MARVEL 2099

For you guys who've been asking, a grand old SPIDEY 2099 villain shows up for a return match in our monthly SPIDEY 2099 title! Watch for it: the tale climaxes in our Anniversary Issue (that's number 25, if you're keepin' count). We've decided to make all our Anniversary Issues double-sized, and then do something special within each of 'em to make the extra work for us all worthwhile!

Also, we *did* mention that HULK 2099 gets his own title this year, didn't we? We'd hate to think we were growing forgetful about a little detail like that!